



FIFTH DOCTOR TRILOGY: PART TWO

PURITY

A FOUR-PART STORY BY STEPHEN COLE

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

THE DOCTOR: PETER DAVISON

Time traveller.

TEGAN: JANET FIELDING

Time traveller's companion.

TURLOUGH: MARK STRICKSON

Time traveller's companion.

NYSSA: SARAH SUTTON

Time traveller's former companion.

SESHA:

F, 19. Daughter of the Purity settlement's leader, forced to step into his shoes when he is 'taken'. Intelligent, plain-speaking, impulsive.

MERTIL:

F, 30s-40s. Scheming and manipulative, fanatical about cleanliness. A zealot who genuinely believes herself the best person to lead Purity.

JESTAN:

(doubles as a **TAKER**)

M, 30s-40s. Former lover of Mertil, who would be again. Tough and physically strong. Her supporter and confidante.

HERVEY:

(doubles as a **TAKER**)

M, 19. Sessa's friend and admirer. Afraid but longs to be brave.

ANULF: (doubles as a **TAKER**)
M, 40s-50s – broad-shouldered former leader of Purity, who is 'taken' to discover the truth about his settlement.

ANTAN: (doubles as a **TAKER**)
M, 20s – a Searcher. In thrall to Mertil, but eventually sees reason.

A NOTE ON TAKERS:

Takers are mysterious robotic creatures whose energy source is failing and who constantly monitor the people of Purity. The voices are pure and level, like the computer HAL in 2001 – A Space Odyssey. When invaded by the SHADES, the voices have more character.

ALSO: MAN; WOMAN; CROWD

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The story is set on a forest planet in a settlement called Purity, where the survivors of a crashed spaceship have evolved a culture of obsessive cleanliness to guard against germs and disease; they are preyed upon by mysterious Takers who spirit away anyone whose medical condition is life-threatening, never to be seen again.

PART ONE

SCENE 1: EXT. ALIEN FOREST. NIGHT

(FX: ALIEN FOREST AMBIENCE. UNDER THAT, THE EERIE, WHISPERED GIBBERING OF THE SHADES, BLOWING THROUGH THE LANDSCAPE LIKE A SINISTER BREEZE.)

(FX: WE HEAR THREE PEOPLE APPROACHING, TRAMPING THROUGH UNDERGROWTH, THE NOISE HALTING AS -)

MERTIL:

Hold tight. There's a view down to the river from this clearing. We might see them from here.

(FX: ONE PERSON TRAMPING ON UNTIL -)

MERTIL:

Sesha, I said hold tight.

SESHA:

(STOPPED) The night-lighter won't have the range, Mertil. The Takers had too much of a head start.

MERTIL:

This was your father's own strategy. He knew the Takers would return. This is our chance to take the fight to them.

SESHA:

But if they've reached the river with him, we'll have lost him.

HERVEY:

It... might be worth a look. We might see tracks they've left.

SESHA:

Hervey, we must keep going. We might catch them up.

MERTIL:

Set up the night-lighter, boy. Wait - hand scrub first.

SESHA:

We don't have time for that!

MERTIL:

We won't help Anulf by falling sick now. Do it - both of you.

(FX: SCOOSH OF HAND SANITISER DISPENSERS AND SCRUBBING OF HANDS. IN THE PAUSE, BRING UP THE SOUND OF THE SHADES A LITTLE LOUDER)

HERVEY:

Listen. Lots of Shades about.

SESHA:

They're always out in force when the Takers come.

HERVEY:

The forest's alive with them tonight.

MERTIL:

They can't hurt you. Come on, the night-lighter.

(FX: SWITCHES FLICKED, LOW HUM)

HERVEY:

Too many shadows... No, hold tight – is that...?

SESHA (DISAPPOINTED):

It's only Jestan's group. Must be trying to head the Takers off.

MERTIL:

Try to the east, boy.

SESHA

I'm telling you, Mertil, this is a waste of time. Don't you want Anulf to be found? (BEAT) Do what you want. I'm going.

HERVEY:

Brother Anulf ruled that only groups of three or more were allowed in the forest.

MERTIL:

After what happened to your mother, Sessa, I'm surprised [you'd –]

SESHA:

That's *Sister* Sessa. Right now, I decide what's allowed in the Bay, Mertil. If anything happens to Brother Anulf, powers of governing pass to his first-born. Not to his second wife.

MERTIL:

You have emergency powers only.

SESHA:

And this is an emergency. Or do you need the night-lighter to show you that too?

(SESHA STORMS AWAY THROUGH THE UNDERGROWTH)

HERVEY (CALLS AFTER HER):

Sister Sessa!

MERTIL:

She has no respect for anything. For the sake of Purity, I hope the situation is soon resolved.

(FX: THE NOISE OF THE SHADES GETS SLOWLY LOUDER UNDER DIALOGUE TO END OF SCENE)

HERVEY:

No one Taken has ever been found.

MERTIL:

Anulf was still strong, boy. He will have resisted, slowed them down. And the Shades trail the Takers. We'll get to Jestan's group, get them and any others to search areas with the most Shades. Maybe this time we'll finally find out where they hide, and deal with them once and for all. Bring the night-lighter.

(BEAT) Scrub first.

HERVEY:

But I just did.

MERTIL:

Do it properly this time. Not just your fingers.

(FX: THE SCOOSHING OF THE SANITISER, SCRUBBING OF HANDS, THE CREEPY NOISE OF THE SHADES)

MERTIL (CONT):

The Shades can't hurt us. But this dirt, boy. The unclean air. The muck all around us – that's different. Scrub harder. If we drop our guard... that's when we're dead.

SCENE 2: EXT. ELSEWHERE IN ALIEN FOREST. NIGHT

(FX: TARDIS LANDS. EXTERIOR TARDIS DOOR OPENS. THE SOUND OF THE SHADES HAS DROPPED FROM LAST SCENE BUT GRADUALLY INCREASES THROUGH THIS ONE)

DOCTOR:

Ah. Step carefully, you three. We've landed at night.

NYSSA:

Shall I fetch the torches, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

No need, Nyssa. That moon's looking fairly full. Just wait for your eyes to adjust.

TURLOUGH:

It's a forest.

TEGAN:

Thanks for pointing that out, Turlough. Where are we?

DOCTOR:

A long way from the Earth, Tegan. This is the planet of Chodor, out on the eastern edge of Aldebaran. No strategic importance, no mineral wealth, overlooked by most travellers.

TURLOUGH:

Is there any particular reason why we're here?

DOCTOR:

I suggested to the TARDIS she have a little listen-in on the mutterings of the universe.. Asked her to prick up her metaphorical ears at any mention of Richter's Syndrome.

TURLOUGH:

Can the TARDIS really do that?

DOCTOR:

We'll find out, once we've explored a little.

TEGAN:

Exploring a dark forest in the middle of the night on a world where anyone we meet might have space-rabies?

NYSSA:

They won't, not once I've tried out the cure.

TURLOUGH:

She hopes.

NYSSA:

I'm grateful for your help, all of you.

(FX: SHADES GET SUDDENLY LOUDER AND STAY AT THIS LEVEL)

TURLOUGH:

What's that noise?

DOCTOR:

I'm not sure. Some kind of atmospheric disturbance?

NYSSA:

It's almost like... voices.

DOCTOR:

Probably just this planet's version of cicadas, or...

TEGAN:

Or something else.

(THEN, IN THE DISTANCE THEY HEAR ANULF, WHO'S BEING MANHANDLED AWAY BY SILENT ASSAILANTS)

ANULF (DELIRIOUS):

I won't be taken. Do you hear me? I won't let you. [Why do you do this? Why take so many from Purity, always in silence?]

DOCTOR:

Someone's in trouble.

TEGAN:

Come on.

(DOCTOR & TEGAN RUN FROM CLEARING)

TURLOUGH:

(CALLS) Is that wise? (GRAB'S NYSSA'S ARM) Nyssa, wait!

NYSSA:

Turlough, let go of my arm-!

TURLOUGH:

But we don't know the whole situation!

NYSSA:

We never will if we don't investigate – agh.

(FX: NOISE OF SHADES INTENSIFIES, PANNING LEFT AND RIGHT)

TURLOUGH:

Are you all right? What is it?

NYSSA:

Those sounds in the air... Don't you hear them? Like... whispers...

(FX: SHADES GET LOUDER, MORE MULTI-LAYERED)

NYSSA:

The noises are coming from that direction. They're coming at us!

(FX: TURLOUGH RATTLES TARDIS DOOR)

TURLOUGH:

And the TARDIS is locked. Oh, wonderful.

NYSSA:

We have to get away.

TURLOUGH:

Well come on, then!

(THEY RUN)

SCENE 3: EXT. CLIFFTOP FROM ALIEN FOREST. NIGHT

(DOCTOR AND TEGAN CRASH THROUGH FOLIAGE AND STOP RUNNING, A LITTLE SHORT OF BREATH)

(FX: ABOVE THE AMBIENCE, THE CRASH AND ROLL OF AN OCEAN)

DOCTOR:
Hello?

TEGAN:
He's stopped shouting, we've got nothing to follow. You don't think he went over the cliff edge and drowned?

DOCTOR:
It sounded to me more as though he were taken deeper into the forest...

(FX: SLOW BUILD OF SHADE NOISE)

DOCTOR:
I should've let Nyssa bring the torches – (BEAT) Where IS Nyssa?

TEGAN:
Miles behind, I expect. With Turlough.

DOCTOR:
Oh, well, I'm sure they'll be along in just a moment. (CALLS)
Nyssa! Turlough!

TEGAN:
Ssh! Those sounds in the air again... like whispers...

(FX: OFF, SSHA CRASHING THROUGH FOREST. SHADES NOISE RECEDES OVER NEXT FEW LINES)

DOCTOR:
Ah, I hear them now! (CALLING) Nyssa, Turlough, over here –

(SSHA APPEARS FROM THE UNDERGROWTH. THROUGHOUT THIS SCENE SHE IS FIGHTING TO STAY TOUGH AND DETACHED WHILE OUT OF HER DEPTH)

SSHA:
(SHOCKED) Hold tight.

DOCTOR:
Oh! Er – hello!

SSHA:
In Sir John's name, what are you?

DOCTOR:

Friendly. There's no need to be afraid. Come closer. We're not armed, you can put down the club and the... (SNIFFS) soap?

TEGAN:

(SOTTO) Smells like carbolic. (REACTS TO SESHAS APPEARANCE, STARTS FORWARD) Your skin! It looks burned, are you all right?

SESHA:

Stay back. I am Sister Sessa, Sessa of Anulf.

TEGAN:

(SOTTO) She's a nun?

DOCTOR:

(SOTTO) Or a nurse.

SESHA:

(AGGRESSIVE) With my father gone, I am Purity Bay's Leader. Are you Takers?

TEGAN:

We haven't taken anything.

DOCTOR:

Only the time to see if we could help a man we heard calling for help.

SESHA:

(BREATHES) Father? (STILL SUSPICIOUS) Who are you?

DOCTOR:

I'm the Doctor.

SESHA:

A doctor? That's impossible.

DOCTOR:

Really? Who do you call when you're sick?

SESHA:

'Doctor' is an ancient name of power. There have been no doctors for so long. It *is* impossible.

DOCTOR:

Well, as Aristotle said: a likely impossibility is always preferable to an unconvincing possibility.

SESHA:

(MOCKING) You'll tell me next she's Sir John.

TEGAN:
I'm Tegan. Tegan Jovanka.

DOCTOR:
Sir John is another ancient name of power, I take it.

SESHA:
Where are you from?

TEGAN:
Here and there.

DOCTOR:
We're travellers. (STEPS FORWARD) Pleased to meet you –

SESHA:
Get back. You must be with the Takers. What have you done with my father?

DOCTOR:
I'm sorry, we know nothing about these Takers – (BEAT) Er... Sister Sessa?

SESHA:
(FASCINATED) Your skin, it's like newborns'...

TEGAN:
Er, thanks.

SESHA:
And your hair, it's so long. It breaks every law. What about dirt, germs, infection...

DOCTOR:
I'm afraid I don't follow.

SESHA:
Whoever or whatever you are – you should be dead.

SCENE 4: EXT. CLEARING IN ALIEN FOREST. NIGHT

(NYSSA HAS FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH TURLOUGH RUNNING THROUGH THE FOREST. THEY'VE BOTH STOPPED. OUT OF BREATH.)

(FX: THE NOISE OF THE SHADES QUIET MURMURS NOW)

TURLOUGH:
Nyssa, finally! What's wrong with you?

NYSSA:

I could hear them... The Shades... Not clearly, but the sound of words.

TURLOUGH:

You're not making sense.

NYSSA:

The whispering things – the Shades. I think that's what they call themselves.

TURLOUGH:

Why would you think that?

NYSSA:

I half-heard so many words... like someone was trying to force the sounds through my ears. (SIGHS) I just need to rest a moment.

TURLOUGH:

I don't suppose a moment matters. We've lost the Doctor and Tegan completely by now. Still, at least we got away from your Shades.

NYSSA:

No.

TURLOUGH:

What d'you mean? The muttering's all but stopped. Your Shades have gone.

NYSSA:

But we didn't get away from them. The Shades simply... lost interest.

(FX: TWIG SNAPPING, OFF)

TURLOUGH:

What was that?

NYSSA:

What?

TURLOUGH:

I thought... I thought someone was there... watching.

NYSSA:

You're getting jumpy.

(FX: CROSS TO:)

SCENE 5: EXT. ADJACENT TO CLEARING. NIGHT.

(BREATHLESS AND AFRAID, HERVEY COMES RUNNING UP TO MERTIL)

HERVEY:

(WHISPERS) Mertil, you were right, there are... Sir John heal me, there are *strangers*.

MERTIL:

They made enough noise. They cannot fear discovery. (BEAT) Hervey, fetch the search party here. I will stay to watch them. If they leave, I will mark the trees to show the path.

HERVEY:

But if they see you, they might kill you.

MERTIL:

Go! Hurry, boy.

(HERVEY runs off)

(FX: THE FAMILIAR SCOOSH OF SANITISER AND SCRUBBING)

MERTIL (CONT):

(WHISPERS) I cannot be hurt. Let doctors see my skin is pure. Let Sir John's blade show my heart is pure. (SCRUBS HARDER, IT HURTS). I... am pure.

SCENE 6: EXT. CLIFFTOP FROM ALIEN FOREST. NIGHT

DOCTOR:

Sister Sessa, please don't let cultural differences blind you to the fact that Tegan and I are trying to help you.

TEGAN:

We're not plague carriers.

DOCTOR:

And if my hair offends you, I'll wear a hat. (PULLS OUT HAT AND WEARS IT) How's that? However our appearance might differ from yours, you really have nothing to fear.

SESHA:

I'm not afraid. (BEAT) The Shades have moved on - that's a sure sign the Takers have gone too.

TEGAN:

Shades? The funny noise in the air, you mean?

SESHA:

So there are no Shades where you come from, as well as no scrubs...

DOCTOR:

What are they? These Shades?

SESHA:

They can't hurt you, 'Doctor'. (SHE ENJOYS USING THE WORD OF POWER, PRONOUNCES IT SLIGHTLY ODDLY) I must return to the hunt. If I don't find my father tonight...

DOCTOR:

Please. Let us help you.

SESHA:

No. Hold tight here. I shall be back to speak with you again. (EXITS)

TEGAN:

Bye, then. (TO DOCTOR) Well, come on then, Doctor. Now's our chance.

DOCTOR:

Chance...?

TEGAN:

Couldn't we just slip away, find Nyssa and Turlough, get back to the TARDIS?

DOCTOR:

We could. But if Nyssa and Turlough are lost out there with these Takers, Sessa's support could be important to us.

TEGAN:

Come off it. You just want to dig around this Purity Bay of theirs and find out what's going on.

DOCTOR:

I'd say there was something rotten in the state of Chodor, wouldn't you?

TEGAN:

Rotten? Sterilised to within an inch of its life, you mean. Sessa can't be more than, what, eighteen? But her skin, it's like burned leather. And that chemical smell...

DOCTOR:

Mmm. A lifetime of scrubbing with carbolic. I wonder – could it be linked to Richter's Syndrome?

SCENE 7: EXT. CLEARING IN ALIEN FOREST. NIGHT

TURLOUGH:

Those sounds have receded. It must be safe to move on.

(FX: RUSTLING IN THE UNDERGROWTH, OFF)

NYSSA:

Turlough, what you said about us being watched..

TURLOUGH:

Yes-?

NYSSA:

You weren't imagining it.

MERTIL:

(FX: BURSTING THROUGH UNDERGROWTH) Hold-!

NYSSA:

It's alright, we mean you no harm -

MERTIL:

Not you, the man.

TURLOUGH:

M-me?

MERTIL:

Step forward! A cap of red.. Then the stories are true. Never thought I'd see with my own eyes.

TURLOUGH:

Perhaps if you put down the club we could talk about this.

MERTIL:

Where is Brother Anulf, red-thatch? Where have you taken him?

TURLOUGH:

I have no idea what you're talking about!

NYSSA:

Please, we've only just arrived here.

MERTIL:

Yes, from the Lands Beyond the River. The Taker - and his acolyte.

NYSSA:

Your face, your hands, they're bleeding.

MERTIL:

My purity shines in beads of blood, girl. The Takers will never come for me. Never.

TURLOUGH:

(SOTTO TO NYSSA) Is she suffering from this illness of yours?

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) I don't think so. (TO MERTIL) My name is Nyssa, [and -]

MERTIL:

I don't want your filthy name. If you've already taken Brother Anulf, why do you wait? Who else have you come for? Well?

(FX: DISTANT RUSTLING FROM UNDERGROWTH)

NYSSA:

Turlough, she's trying to keep us here. There are others coming.

MERTIL:

And we'll kill you! (STRAINS AS SHE SWINGS THE CLUB)

NYSSA:

Turlough, look out!

(TURLOUGH DODGES BACKWARDS)

(FX: IMPACT OF CLUB STRIKING TREE)

NYSSA:

Her club's stuck in the tree. Run, Turlough-!

TURLOUGH:

I'm running! (THEY RUN)

MERTIL:

Come back here, red-thatch!

(FX: JESTAN'S SEARCH PARTY APPROACHING THROUGH UNDERGROWTH, OFF)

JESTAN:

(OFF, CALLS) Mertil?

MERTIL:

Jestan, at last! Bring your men and the spark wire. Hurry, they're getting away!

JESTAN:

(TO OTHERS) Fan out, men. Follow the Takers!

(FX: THE MEN CRASH OFF)

JESTAN:

(APPR MERTIL) Thank Sir John, you were not taken yourself.

MERTIL:

The Taker's hair was truly red, Jestan. So much of it. And his skin, so pale. Unnatural.

JESTAN:

And Anulf?

MERTIL:

We must follow them, Jestan. And scour the truth from them.

SCENE 8: EXT. FOREST PATH. NIGHT

(FX: FADE UP. SSHA APPROACHES)

HERVEY:

(NERVOUS) S-someone there-?

SSHA:

Hold tight, Hervey.

HERVEY:

(RELIEF) Ssha, it's you – (CORRECTING SELF) Sister Ssha, I mean. You won't believe what's happened. Mertil and me, we found two Takers.

SSHA:

What? Was my father with them?

HERVEY:

I don't know. Jestan and the others went off after them. I waited for you here.

SSHA:

I must go. I have to see.

HERVEY:

(PULLING HER BACK) Ssha, wait. You're needed at the Bay.

SSHA:

Why's that?

HERVEY:

Garr came, said that with Anulf taken, and you and Mertil both searching, the people need reassurance that Anulf's closest haven't been taken too. They're afraid, Sessa. They need a leader.

SESHA:

Mertil's right, I only have emergency powers. They need my father.

HERVEY:

Isn't it better they get you right now, and not Mertil?

SESHA:

I'm glad to hear you say that. I thought when you stayed with her...

HERVEY:

I wanted to go with you. Like I wanted to go with Jestan and the others. (PAUSE) I'm just scared, Sessa.

SESHA:

We all are. I suppose I had better go back. And take my news with me.

HERVEY:

News?

SESHA:

Not now. I must think of the implications. My mind is spinning... (SIGHS) Imagine if we stopped an actual Taker. If we could only find out what they want with us... What they *do*...

HERVEY:

You should have an escort back to the Bay.

SESHA:

No. I'll go alone. But promise me, Hervey, you'll bring word of my father. As soon as you get it?

HERVEY:

Soon as. Hold tight, Sessa. Sir John's hand be steady over you.

SESHA:

And you. Hold tight.

(SHE EXITS)

SCENE 9: EXT. CLIFFTOP FROM ALIEN FOREST. NIGHT

(DOCTOR AND TEGAN ARE WAITING FOR SESHA)

TEGAN:
(SIGHS) I've got such a headache.

DOCTOR:
Hmm. Proximity to those Shades, perhaps. The fluctuations in their speech and volume suggest their presence bleeds over multiple carrier wavelengths...

TEGAN:
That's not helping the ache, Doctor. (FX: WE HEAR SESHA APPROACH) Here comes Sessa, p'raps you can test out your theories on her.

DOCTOR:
(TO SESHA) Well, here we are, where you left us.

SESHA:
Good. (PAUSE) I'm taking you to the Bay. We've never lost our leader to the Takers before, the people need reassurance.

TEGAN:
I'm not surprised. This whole place gives me the creeps. (PAUSE) Don't you think the sight of us strolling into town might finish your people off?

SESHA:
Your arrival must be properly handled. (PAUSE) I need to know. Doctor, Tegan... are you from the Section?

DOCTOR:
What section?

SESHA:
An expedition left Purity a hundred years ago. They didn't come back.

TEGAN:
You mean nobody looked for them?

SESHA:
We must always stay close to the Bay. Hold tight – the most important law.

DOCTOR:
Hold tight to what exactly?

SESHA:

To Purity. To the hope that we will be rescued and taken back to the stars. If you're not from the Section, 'Doctor'... are you here to rescue us?

DOCTOR:

Well, I - er...

TEGAN:

What the Doctor means is: we'll help if we can.

SCENE 10: EXT. RIVERSIDE. NIGHT

(FX: RIVER FLOWING FAST NEARBY)

TURLOUGH:

(RUN TO STOP) A river! Where to now-?.

NYSSA:

(STOPPED) Sounds like rapids up ahead. We'll be cut off.

TURLOUGH:

Well, we can't stay here.

NYSSA:

Perhaps if we tried to talk to them?

TURLOUGH:

We did. They talked back with blunt instruments, remember?

(FX: SEARCHERS CRASHING THROUGH UNDERGROWTH)

NYSSA:

They're getting closer.

(FX: MORE CRASHING PANNED TO OPPOSITE DIRECTION)

NYSSA:

Wait. There are more ahead of us.

TURLOUGH:

A different search party. We're trapped.

NYSSA:

The river, then. We'll have to wade across.

TURLOUGH:

But it stinks! And we've no idea what creatures might be in there...

NYSSA:

Where else can we go?

TURLOUGH:

If I must —

(FX: THEY STEP INTO WATER. CROSS TO:)

JESTAN:

(RUSHING TO RIVERSIDE) There they are, in the water. No range on the spark wire. Use the sling-stones. Get them!

(FX: CROSS BACK TO:)

NYSSA:

Never mind the smell, Turlough, swim for it!

(THEY DIVE FORWARD, START SWIMMING)

(FX: STONES, STICKS ETC BEING THROWN IN WATER)

TURLOUGH:

(SWIMMING) What are they throwing?

NYSSA:

(SWIMMING) Anything they can find. Swim faster.

(FX: CLUNK AS TURLOUGH IS STRUCK ON HEAD WITH STONE)

TURLOUGH:

(CRIES OUT)

NYSSA:

(TREADING WATER) Turlough? Turlough!

SCENE 11: EXT. FOREST PATH. NIGHT

(SESHA, DOCTOR, TEGAN WALKING)

SESHA:
The path leads straight to the Bay.

DOCTOR:
But will we be entering it as your prisoners?

TEGAN:
Sesha?

SESHA:
I don't believe you are Takers.

DOCTOR:
Who are these 'Takers'?

SESHA:
They've never been seen, not properly. They walk like men, but are more than men - so the stories go. But whenever one of us is made too weak by wounds or illness - he or she is Taken.

TEGAN:
Bodysnatchers?

DOCTOR:
Impatient ones, it seems.

TEGAN:
Sounds like they really do need more doctors here.

SESHA:
Anyone who's taken is never seen or heard of again.

DOCTOR:
Without exception?

SESHA:
(CLOSE TO TEARS) Without exception. I - I was so angry with Father for marrying Mertil so soon... so soon after... (SWALLOWS BACK THE HURT) Forgive me.

TEGAN:
It's alright. Better out than in.

DOCTOR:
How long has this been going on?

SESHA:

For always. Or as long as anyone can remember. Like the Shades. (FX: SHADE CHITTER) But they don't do anything. The elders say they're the remains of everyone who was ever Taken... their unclean souls barred from heaven.

DOCTOR:

So your Elders don't really know any more than us.

SESHA:

You don't believe them?

DOCTOR:

Do you?

SESHA:

Wounds become dirty. Sickness brings death. And cleanliness is next to godliness.

TEGAN:

What happened to your father?

SESHA:

Sickness in his chest.

TEGAN:

His heart? Then you must've know the Takers would come for him.

SESHA:

We left guards on watch at his bedside. Prepared alarms. It made no difference. The Takers made them sleep and took him.

DOCTOR:

Despite the floodlighting. I assume that's our destination ahead?

SESHA:

Yes. That is Purity Bay. Somehow, I've got to be its leader. So suddenly it matters, doesn't it?

TEGAN:

What you believe in, you mean?

SESHA:

Yes. But what do I believe in?

SCENE 12: EXT. RIVERSIDE. NIGHT

(FX: SOMEONE APPROACHES FROM FOREST)

JESTAN:
Mertil!

MERTIL:
Well, Jestan?

JESTAN:
Couldn't get close enough for the spark-wire. They went into the water – and it didn't kill them!

MERTIL:
Unnatural, evil creatures.

JESTAN:
We hit the Taker square on his red head. The girl screamed and then the current swept them away from us. They must be dead... Gone the same way as Sessa's mother.

MERTIL:
These creatures are different from us, they thrive on filth and corruption. If they live, there may be... reprisals.

JESTAN:
What should we do?

MERTIL:
I will return to Purity, to give my husband's people comfort at this difficult time. (BEAT) My late husband's people...

SCENE 13: EXT. PURITY BAY. NIGHT

SESHA:

Tegan, Doctor – we're not far from the boundary now. It's guarded. You'd better wait here.

DOCTOR:

Keeping us your little secret?

SESHA:

I don't want people glimpsing you and rumours spreading. I want to announce you properly. To reassure people you're here to rescue us.

DOCTOR:

We don't have magic wands to wave, Sessa. If we're to help you we need to know where your people came from, what they're doing...

TEGAN:

What's that building there? Looks sort of... pre-fabricated.

SESHA:

It is the rest centre. The exercise centre is beside it. Rest and exercise are vital to health.

DOCTOR:

Well, quite.

SESHA:

Then there is Deacon Chamber.

TEGAN:

Who's he when he's at home?

DOCTOR:

I think Sessa means that big metal box? Part oven, part washing machine? A decontamination chamber!

SESHA:

When I take the guards away, go into the Rest Centre and wait. There are only my father's guards in there – the ones the Takers made sleep. The passcode is 7-4-3-9-7.

TEGAN:

You're giving us our own way in?

SESHA:

My father trusted his first instincts. Mine are to trust you. I'll come for you as soon as I can. (SESHA LEAVES)

TEGAN:

When she said Purity. I wasn't expecting a trailer park. And that disinfectant smell...

DOCTOR:

Look at those guards Sesha's leading away.

TEGAN:

Their skin... Burnt raw, just the same as hers'.

DOCTOR:

I'd imagine everyone here's the same.

TEGAN:

And their clothes...

DOCTOR:

Standard issue coveralls for extended space travel.

TEGAN:

I meant, starched stiff?

DOCTOR:

That'll be too many turns through Sesha's 'deacon chamber'. I daresay the original meaning's been lost over the years...

TEGAN:

Well, Sesha's as good as her word. The way's clear...

DOCTOR:

I only wish Nyssa and Turlough were safe here, too.

TEGAN:

Safe-?!?

DOCTOR:

Relatively speaking. Come on. Keep low.

(THEY MOVE AWAY TO THE REST CENTRE)

SCENE 14: EXT. RIVERSIDE/STERILE FOREST ZONE. DAWN

(FX: A DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERE. NO SHADES. JUST QUIETER NIGHT NOISES, AND THE RIVER, RUSHING ALONG.)

(NYSSA'S MADE IT TO THE RIVER BANK, SHE COUGHS, SHIVERY, SOAKED AND COLD. TURLOUGH'S BESIDE HER, HE'S BEEN UNCONSCIOUS IN THE WATER)

NYSSA:

Turlough? Can you hear me?

TURLOUGH:

(COUGHS) What happened? (COUGHS AGAIN)

NYSSA:

They hit you on the head. A stone, I think.

TURLOUGH:

Feels more like a boulder.

NYSSA:

I tried to keep your head out of the water but couldn't fight the current.

TURLOUGH:

Probably as well, took us out of their reach.

NYSSA:

But further away from the Doctor and Tegan.

TURLOUGH:

Why did those two have to charge off at the first sniff of trouble?

NYSSA:

It's my fault as well, you waited for me when the Shades...
(BREAKS OFF) Listen.

TURLOUGH:

What is it?

NYSSA:

The Shades, they've gone. There aren't any.

TURLOUGH:

Not a whisper... And the air... smells fresher, cleaner. (CHOKES) I thought the water was polluted?

NYSSA:

It is, it stinks of carbolic.

TURLOUGH:

It *did* stink of chemicals. (SMACKS LIPS) This stuff tastes pure as a mountain spring.

NYSSA:

(WARY) Where are we, I wonder?

TURLOUGH:

I don't know. But it's getting lighter. Maybe this place improves with daylight?

NYSSA:

Come on, we'd better find a way back to the TARDIS – and hope we don't run into anyone else on the way...

SCENE 15: INT. MEDICAL CENTRE. DAWN

(FX: SOUND OF ENTRY CODER AND DOOR SLIDES OPEN)

DOCTOR:

Here we are. Rest Centre. (DOOR CLOSES) No Shades in here.

TEGAN:

Not much of anything in here. Just beds and showers.

DOCTOR:

A little more powerful than that, they're steam-soakers. Some of this equipment on the far wall is rather more interesting.

TEGAN:

In your opinion.

DOCTOR:

An old virtual reality generator. (FX: FLICKS SWITCHES) No power... (BANGS ON THE MACHINE)

TEGAN:

Not so loud! You'll wake Anulf's guards. (WALKS OVER) They're both still well under.

DOCTOR:

And a sleep-inducer! Promotes restful sleep. Or did once. (STUDIES IT) Scarring on the front panel, suggestive of a high-intensity energy blast... Aha! Similar markings on the VR unit. But why have a device that stimulates the brain right beside one that calms it – hmm?

TEGAN:

Maybe they were moved in here later.

DOCTOR:

I wonder – did the Takers use the sleep inducer to knock out the guards?

TEGAN:

I don't think so. Look here at their wrists.

(DOCTOR CROSSES, EXAMINES GUARDS)

DOCTOR:
Injector marks. Shallow breathing, pupils dilated. They've been drugged. A sedative of some kind.

TEGAN:
But we heard Anulf shout out. Why wasn't he sedated?

DOCTOR:
Perhaps these two took his share of the dose. (FX: SOUND OF ENTRY CODER AND DOORS OPENING) Down!

(MERTIL, ANTAN AND JESTAN AND SOME MEN ENTER)

MERTIL:
Hold tight, Jestan. You and your group have earned your rest.

JESTAN:
The other parties will return soon. Better steam-soak while it's quiet, Antan...

(ANTAN HAS SEEN DOCTOR OR TEGAN. TERROR)

ANTAN:
Jestan! Behind the bunks —

(GENERAL REACTION OF ALARM AND HORROR)

DOCTOR:
There's really no need to be afraid.

ANTAN:
More Takers?

MERTIL:
So - retaliation is swift.

DOCTOR:
Retaliation? There must be some confusion - Sister Sesha let us in here.

MERTIL:
Not even Sesha would be so suicidally stupid.

DOCTOR:
She wants to present us to everyone at once precisely to avoid this reaction in smaller groups.

JESTAN:
Look at them.

TEGAN:
Not all this again.

MERTIL:
Don't be afraid, Jestan. The Taker and his acolyte ran from us in the forest. They fear our purity.

DOCTOR:
Why not find Sesha, she'll vouch for us.

TEGAN:
We only want to help.

MERTIL:
Yes, to help poison that girl's weak mind further! Jestan, use the spark-wire.

(FX: JESTAN PULLS A DEVICE FROM HIS POCKET. CHARGING SOUND)

DOCTOR:
Ah. Now you might not know it, but that's a kardax defibrillator, designed to cause the return of spontaneous circulation by remotely applying an electric shock to the heart...

MERTIL:
Hear him babble in his fear!

DOCTOR:
You haven't centred the ranging locator. Without a focus –

(FX: ZAPPP!)

DOCTOR
(GASPS IN PAIN, CRASHES TO FLOOR)

TEGAN:
Doctor!!!

DOCTOR:
Stay back, Tegan! That really was extraordinarily painful –

MERTIL:
Again, Jestan.

(FX: EXTENDED ZAPPP)

DOCTOR:
(CRIES OUT AGAIN)

TEGAN:
Stop it! You'll kill him!

MERTIL:
Do it again, Jestan! Again! Again! Again!!!

END OF PART ONE

PART TWO

REPRISE:

(FX: ZAPPP!)

DOCTOR
(GASPS IN PAIN, CRASHES TO FLOOR)

TEGAN:
Doctor!!!

DOCTOR:
Stay back, Tegan! That really was extraordinarily painful –

MERTIL:
Again, Jestan.

(FX: EXTENDED ZAPPP)

DOCTOR:
(CRIES OUT AGAIN)

TEGAN:
Stop it! You'll kill him!

MERTIL:
Do it again, Jestan! Again! Again! Again!!!

(SCENE CONTINUES:)

SCENE 16: INT MEDICAL CENTRE. DAWN

TEGAN:
Stop it! Or I'll give my germs to your sleeping friends here!

JESTAN:
Mertil...?

MERTIL:
Step away from the guards, girl.

TEGAN:
Not until Jestan lets go of that spark thing. Throw it on the floor. (NO-ONE MOVES) Do I have to start coughing over these two?

JESTAN:
Very well. (FX: HE THROWS DOWN THE DEVICE – CLATTER)

DOCTOR:

(WEAK) No need to taunt them, Tegan. They're just afraid. We can't blame them for that.

TEGAN:

They tried to kill you. Can you stand?

DOCTOR:

(RISES) Just about.

MERTIL:

Now get away from those men.

TEGAN:

Not until you fetch Sesha.

(SESHA SWEEPS IN BEHIND)

SESHA:

I am here.

JESTAN:

Sister Sesha.

(THE OTHER MEN GIVE 'SISTER SESHA'S TOO)

TEGAN:

Am I glad to see you.

SESHA:

What is the meaning of this?

MERTIL:

(QUIETLY MENACING) That stands as my question to you.

SCENE 17: EXT. STERILE FOREST ZONE. DAWN.

(TURLOUGH AND NYSSA ARE MOVING CAUTIOUSLY THROUGH THE FOREST)

TURLOUGH:

(A BIT ANXIOUS) Quiet here, isn't it?

NYSSA:

Peaceful. And the air's so fresh. It's like we didn't just cross a river... We found our way to another world.

TURLOUGH:

(SEES SOMETHING) Well, someone else found a way out of it.

NYSSA:

What?

TURLOUGH:

Over there, beneath the tree. With his legs ripped clear away.

NYSSA:

Oh, no – (MOVES OVER)

TURLOUGH:

(FOLLOWING) Where are you going? You can't help him! Nyssa!

NYSSA:

It's all right. Come here.

(TURLOUGH MOOCHES CLOSER)

NYSSA:

It's humanoid, but it's not human. The skin is synthetic, the veins are wires. And the top of its head...

TURLOUGH:

Bright orange.

NYSSA:

No wonder that woman took you for a Taker. "Red-thatch".

TURLOUGH:

What, that's a Taker?

NYSSA:

Look at the disruption pattern around the chest and head. That would suggest an encounter with a phenomenal energy source.

TURLOUGH:

A phenomenally destructive one. Perhaps those primitives are more resourceful than they look.

NYSSA:
Or perhaps there's another danger here.

(FX: DISTANT HUM)

TURLOUGH:
A mechanical danger?

NYSSA:
We'd better see what's making that noise.

TURLOUGH:
I was afraid you were going to say that...

SCENE 18: INT. MEDICAL CENTRE. DAWN

SESHA:
You have not returned with my father, Mertil.

MERTIL:
But we have returned to treachery.

SESHA:
Meaning?

MERTIL:
Is it true, Sessa? Have you made a pact with these unclean creatures?

SESHA:
I said they could stay here while I made ready to talk to the people. There will be a meeting in the square this evening, one hour from sunset.

MERTIL:
You would let these creatures spread their stink and infection through the whole of Purity in the meantime?

TEGAN:
Excuse me-?!?

DOCTOR:
(MURMUR) You were the one who told her about your germs, Tegan.

SESHA:
They are not Takers, Mertil, you can see that. I believe... they may be a part of the rescue party.

MERTIL:

You naïve little fool! Ready to take the honeyed words of strangers over a lifetime's instruction in survival.

SESHA:

I warn you, I am my father's daughter.

MERTIL:

And I am Brother Anulf's wife, closer to him in every way.

SESHA:

Too close then, to see what he would surely see – that the Doctor and Tegan come from the stars.

MERTIL:

(TAKEN ABACK) 'Doctor'?!?

DOCTOR:

How do you do.

MERTIL:

He mocks us with our own words of power.

DOCTOR:

I do nothing of the sort.

MERTIL:

Are you from the Section? Those depraved creatures who broke our laws, who would not hold tight?

TEGAN:

Then how would we have come by these clothes? Surely we'd be dressed in the same overalls as you.

SESHA:

They are strangers, Mertil - look at them, can you deny it?

MERTIL:

Wherever they hail from, this must be some trick of the Takers.

DOCTOR:

Why would the Takers bother? You've never seen them or stopped them, even though they've been taking the weakest of you for generations. Why would they change their tactics now?

SESHA:

The Doctor and Tegan can help us to understand the Takers, Mertil. Isn't that better than plotting fruitless attacks in ignorance?

MERTIL:

We know the Takers take. We know that Anulf has been taken. What else is there to know?

SESHA:

How to get him back!

MERTIL:

When the people of Purity see these strangers, there will be panic.

SESHA:

Which is why I will talk to the people first.

DOCTOR:

If our appearance will really cause such alarm, we will gladly clean up and change our clothes.

TEGAN:

Are you serious?

MERTIL:

Put them in the deacon chamber. There is a program for human cleansing.

TEGAN:

Is it safe?

MERTIL:

It is... rigorous. But perfectly safe.

DOCTOR:

Very well. If that will put minds at rest.

TEGAN:

(MUTTERS) Are you sure about this?

DOCTOR:

(ASIDE) As a show of good faith. When these people are calmer and more accepting we can ask them about finding Nyssa and Turlough. (CLAPS HANDS TOGETHER) Well! That's agreed then. Take us to your cleaner.

SCENE 19: EXT. STERILE FOREST ZONE. DAY.

(FX: B/G HUM, AS BEFORE, GROWING LOUDER AS TURLOUGH AND NYSSA GET CLOSER TO IT)

TURLOUGH:
The machine noise came from this way.

NYSSA:
I don't see anything.

TURLOUGH:
That split in the hillside, see-?

NYSSA:
A cave?

TURLOUGH:
Looks very dark... doesn't it.

NYSSA:
Perhaps whoever's inside prefers the dark.

TURLOUGH:
You're going to insist on going in there, aren't you?

NYSSA:
Not without something to light our way, no.

TURLOUGH:
Like what, exactly?

NYSSA:
The remains of that Taker. That orange cap looked luminous.
Perhaps in life, it used to wander in the dark.

TURLOUGH:
Yes, well – let's just hope that whatever tore its legs off
isn't waiting for us in the dark... (HE MOVES OFF)

SCENE 20: EXT. OUTSIDE REST CENTRE. DAY

(FX: DEACON CHAMBER STARTS UP, HEAVY INDUSTRIAL NOISE. SESHA FLICKS SWITCHES)

SESHA:

(TO SELF) Deacon Chamber primed... (FX: CLUNK!) Program Two selected.

HERVEY:

(RUNNING UP) Sesha! Sesha?

SESHA:

Oh, Hervey. Hold tight, what is it? Did you find anyone in the forest?

HERVEY:

No. We've given up. After Jestan's group drove off the Takers they sent word we should regroup back here. He and Mertil feared reprisals from the Takers they injured. Surely they told you what happened?

SESHA:

No. Jestan was once close to Mertil, wasn't he?

HERVEY:

I heard that. When they were both young.

SESHA:

I can't imagine Mertil was ever young.

HERVEY:

Well, I must soak. I ran ahead of the others so I could be first, the last man'll be queuing for hours. (PAUSE) Don't look at me like that. All right, so I wanted to be back in the Bay as soon as I could, back where it's safe and clean.

SESHA:

How far behind you are the others?

HERVEY:

Not very far. They want to be back too, they... Why? Is there someone in the Rest Centre already?

(FX: BLIPS ON ENTRY CODER)

SESHA:

Hold tight, Hervey. Hold very tight.

(FX: DOORS OPEN)

DOCTOR:
(APPEARING IN DOORWAY) All clear?

TEGAN:
(BEHIND) Let's just get this over with, shall we?

HERVEY:
(REACTS TO DOCTOR AND TEGAN IN TERROR) S-Sesha?

SESHA:
It's all right, Hervey.

DOCTOR:
Hello, we're ...

HERVEY:
(FAINTS, FLUMPS TO GROUND)

DOCTOR:
(CHECKING HERVEY) He's fainted-!

TEGAN:
A girl could get a complex round here.

(FX: HURRIED FOOTSTEPS AS MERTIL APPROACHES)

MERTIL:
Get him up, Sesha. The ground is not clean, even in Purity.

SESHA:
I thought you'd gone, Mertil?

MERTIL:
I want to be sure these creatures are correctly treated.

DOCTOR:
Sesha, let us help you with him.

SESHA:
No. The other search parties will be returning any moment.
Please, Doctor, Tegan, in here -

(FX: CLANGING OF LARGE METAL DOOR. A LOUD HISS OF MACHINERY.)

SCENE 21: INT. TAKERS' CAVE. DAY

(TURLOUGH AND NYSSA WALKING THROUGH DARK TUNNEL. THEY TALK QUIETLY OVER FX: LOW WHIRRING HUM OF A MACHINE)

TURLOUGH:

(WALKING, HEFTING TAKER HUSK) This thing weighs a ton.

NYSSA:

(WALKING) A few kilos, that's all.

TURLOUGH:

If that's all, perhaps you'd care to heft it?

NYSSA:

Don't distract me, I'm trying to memorise our route. We might be stuck in these tunnels forever [if I -]

TURLOUGH:

(STOPS WALKING) Do you feel that-?

NYSSA:

Turlough, please-!

TURLOUGH:

The hairs on the back of my neck are standing up.

NYSSA:

Don't worry, I'm sure I'll find the way through -

TURLOUGH:

No, no - standing up like, I don't know. Like static electricity.

NYSSA:

I agree, there's definitely an atmosphere in here -

TURLOUGH:

... and there's a glow from around the next corner. (FX: HUSK ON FLOOR) I'll leave our night-light here, I think.

NYSSA:

Come on.

(FX: THEY CREEP ONWARD)

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) Some sort of control area?

TURLOUGH:

(SOTTO) Built into the cave. And there's another of our red-topped friends...

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) In one piece. Though he doesn't seem very security-conscious.

TURLOUGH:

(SOTTO) Don't tempt fate. (FX: SLOW FOOTSTEPS ON ROCK APPROACH FROM OFF) Another one, coming this way!

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) Back into the tunnel. Turlough-!

(FX: CROSS TO:)

(WE HEAR TAKERS 1 & 2. THEY HAVE FLAT, SYNTHETIC VOICES. TAKER #2 IS A BIT SLURRED)

TAKER #1:

(ARRIVING) The monitor is still functional, despite the power failures.

TAKER #2:

The demands on our energy exceed available supplies. We should consider monitoring the community less frequently.

TAKER #1:

A last resort. The humans there are so fragile, and our window of opportunity already brief. If we cannot gather the dying in time...

TAKER #2:

What is this interference with the signals? Is it the Shades?

TAKER #1:

The interference would seem to come from two rogue life-signs.

TAKER #2:

Impossible. No spaceships detected in Chodor's vicinity.

TAKER #1:

Agreed. To check and correct the components would mean taking the monitor off-line.

TAKER #2:

Take no action yet. (PAUSE) This increase in blood pressure in several of the humans could be dangerous.

TAKER #1:

We have taken their leader. Apprehension is to be expected. Levels are expected to settle.

TAKER #2:

Good. I shall examine our overall energy levels, now we have processed the latest acquisition.

(FX: CROSS TO:)

TURLOUGH:

(SOTTO) Care to make an educated guess who those "rogue life-signs" belong to?

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) Thank goodness the Doctor and Tegan are all right.

TURLOUGH:

(SOTTO) But in a settlement full of the kind of thugs who tried to kill us... how long will they stay that way?

TAKER #2:

(OFF) Wait. Intruders detected.

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) Oh, no...

TAKER #1:

(OFF) Follow me.

(FX GHOSTLY BLURRING NOISE AS TAKERS VANISH)

TURLOUGH:

They've disappeared!

NYSSA:

(RELIEVED) I was sure they'd heard us. There must be other intruders.

TURLOUGH:

Some kind of matter transporter?

NYSSA:

Built-in, like the nightlights in their heads -

(FX: GHOSTLY NOISE RETURNS - T & N REACT AS TAKERS APPEAR RIGHT BEHIND THEM)

TAKER #1:

Intruders found.

NYSSA:

... And the hypodermics in their hands!

TAKER #2:

Dispose of them.

NYSSA:

Turlough - take the Taker and run!

(FX: TURLOUGH HEFTS HALF-TAKER. THEY RUN)

SCENE 22: EXT. OUTSIDE REST CENTRE. DAY

(FX: DEACON CHAMBER IN OPERATION, OFF. A FEW SHADES SWOOP AND CHITTER)

SESHA:
Feeling better now, Hervey-?

HERVEY:
(GROGGY) There were people, Sessa. Strangers –

SESHA:
Try not to think about it –

(FX: APPROACHING CROWD MURMURS)

JESTAN:
(APPROACHING) Sister Sessa!

SESHA:
What is it you want, Jestan? What are the people doing here-?

JESTAN:
Well, they are gathering. They wish to hear from you.

SESHA:
Why-?

JESTAN:
It is said, there are strangers here in Purity.

SESHA:
I asked Mertil to say nothing until I could address the people them myself!

WOMAN:
(CALLING) Sister Sessa, is it true there are strangers here?

SESHA:
I – please, I will speak to you all in due course!

MERTIL:
(APPROACHING) Tell us, Sister Sessa. Tell us about Hervey!

SESHA:
Mertil-!

WOMAN:
What happened to Hervey?

MERTIL:
The strangers looked at him and he fell down.

(ANXIOUS MUTTERINGS)

HERVEY:

I— I'm all right. (WHISPERS) Don't tell them I fainted!

WOMAN:

Are there Takers here?

MERTIL:

Do leaders keep secrets from their people?

SCENE 23: INT: DEACON CHAMBER. DAY

(FX: INTERIOR HUM. CHANGE IN PITCH)

TEGAN:

That's the prewash done. Here comes the spin cycle.

DOCTOR:

Well, I'm sure this won't take long.

TEGAN:

Those marks on the floor. They're like the ones on those machines in the rest centre.

DOCTOR:

You're right. The disruption pattern looks identical. Which means the same explosion of energy affected all three units.

TEGAN:

I didn't see marks like that on the outside.

DOCTOR:

No. The blast must have affected external and internal structures simultaneously. Intra-dimensional. But what on this planet could cause that?

SCENE 24: EXT. OUTSIDE REST CENTRE. DAY

(FX: DEACON CHAMBER NOISE CONTINUES, OFF. ANXIOUS CROWD)

SESHA:

(ADDRESSING CROWD) A man and a woman are in the deacon chamber now. (SWELL OF FEARFUL MURMURS) I did not want to risk them bringing infection to Purity. And I did not wish to discuss with you until after I had interrogated them thoroughly. But they are not Takers. If they were, they would have come in secret, as always. No, they are strangers - like us, from the stars. (MORE CROWD MURMURS) This could be the most important day of all our lives!

JESTAN:

Or it could be the last.

ANTAN:

How did they hurt you, Hervey?

HERVEY:

I - I was tired, I fell.

MERTIL:

You were overcome, boy. The strangers caused it.

SESHA:

(DESPERATE NOW) One is a doctor! (FX: CROWD REACTION) He brings meaning to the old words of power.

MERTIL:

(TO THE CROWD) You call this callow girl Sister. But the strangers know her naivete, her laxity. They call her 'fool'.

SESHA:

Be quiet, Mertil.

MERTIL:

I speak for Purity!

SESHA:

(SHOUTS) I am the daughter of Brother Anulf! His cries of kidnap are barely gone from the air before you seek to rule in his place. Is that the reason you loved him so dearly, stepmother? Yes, and so swiftly?

(THAT'S SWUNG THE CROWD A LITTLE. MERTIL SPEECHLESS)

(FX: FURTHER SURGE OF POWER FROM DEACON CENTRE)

HERVEY:

The deacon chamber. It just slipped two cycles.

MERTIL:

Impurities must be driven out.

SESHA:

What-?!?

SCENE 25: INT: DEACON CHAMBER. DAY

(FX: HUNGRY HISSING, MECHANICAL SUCKING NOISES)

TEGAN

Is this steam or smoke?

DOCTOR:

Neither. A chemical mist.

TEGAN:

That bleach smell's getting worse.

(THEY START COUGHING)

DOCTOR:

Reaching poisonous levels. (BANGS ON WALL) Sesha! Let us out!
(PAUSE) No good. They can't hear us.

TEGAN:

Or they don't want to. This is deliberate. They're going to kill us!

SCENE 26: EXT. OUTSIDE DEACON CHAMBER. DAY.

(FX: DEACON CHAMBER IN OPERATION)

SESHA:

Mertil, reset the deacon chamber controls.

MERTIL:

Their hygiene levels are low. They are in need of extra decon!

SESHA:

The strangers are not soiled dressings to be made fresh. You will kill them. Do you want to throw away all hope of rescue?

MERTIL:

We have survived by obeying doctors' orders, Sir John's litanies of hygiene, by keeping ourselves pure in soul and body.

SESHA:

And holding tight till rescue comes.

MERTIL:

There is no rescue coming, girl! Anulf's words, he told me so.

SESHA:

He did not tell the rest of Purity, and neither did you.
(QUOTING HER) Do leaders keep secrets from their people?

(FX: CROWDS MUTTER, UNCERTAIN)

SESHA (CONT):

Now reset the controls before the cleansing becomes an execution!

SCENE 27: INT: DEACON CHAMBER. DAY

(FX: ESCALATING HUM)

TEGAN:

(COUGHING) Doctor, I can't – can't...

(FX: HUM OF POWER SUDDENLY DWINDLES)

DOCTOR:

They're powering down. Seems someone's had second thoughts...

(BEAT) Tegan? Tegan!

(FX: DOOR CLANGS OPEN. WORRIED CROWD NOISE OUTSIDE)

SESHA:

(CALLING IN) Doctor, are you all right?

DOCTOR:

Tegan's collapsed. We must get her into the rest centre.

Quickly!

SCENE 28: INT. TAKERS' CAVE COMPLEX. DAY

(TURLOUGH AND NYSSA RUNNING THROUGH THE TUNNELS.)

TURLOUGH:

Where can we run to? The Takers can appear wherever they like, we can't keep pushing past them. And when they see I'm lighting our way with the cadaver of one of their kind...

(FX: TAKER REAPPEARING)

NYSSA:

Oh, no...

TAKER #2:

Do not run. You must be disposed of. As permitted under active combat regulation two-zero-one.

TURLOUGH:

(BLUSTERS) Just try it! We're armed. (SHAKES TAKER HUSK) Look what we did to your friend here – took him apart!

TAKER #2:

Conferring –

(FX: BLUR AS HE FADES)

NYSSA:

Well done, Turlough!

TURLOUGH:

It won't take him long to realise I lied. (PAUSE)
That prickling feeling again. On the back of my neck.

NYSSA:

It happened round here before.

TURLOUGH:

Here. Hold our friend, while I check the walls.

(HE PASSES HER THE TAKER HUSK)

NYSSA:

Wait! I feel it now.

TURLOUGH:

And now I don't.

NYSSA:

The energy's coming from the Taker.

TURLOUGH:

It's responding to something. (HE TAPS THE WALLS) The walls
feel solid enough.

NYSSA:

Solid, yes. But not like rock. Feel it. (FX: AS NYSSA TOUCHES
IT, QUIET HIGH-PITCHED BUZZ) A force-field! (EFFORT) If I just
push - (SHE STUMBLES THROUGH) Turlough, I'm through!

TURLOUGH:

The Taker. The barrier's deactivated because you're holding it.

NYSSA:

Take my other hand. Come on -

(WITH SOME EFFORT, TURLOUGH MANAGES.)

TURLOUGH:

All that and it's just another tunnel. (BEAT) Or is it...

(FX: THE BLURRING NOISE ONLY SLUGGISH, NOT RIGHT)

NYSSA:

Something's happening. It's the Taker, it's transporting
itself!

TURLOUGH:

But it's dead! It's only half there!

NYSSA:

Hold on to me! Turlough - !!!

(ECHO AS THE FX REACHES CLIMAX. FADE)

SCENE 29: EXT. OUTSIDE REST CENTRE. DAY.

(DOCTOR EMERGES FROM DEACON CHAMBER, HELPING TEGAN)

DOCTOR:
Coming through...

SESHA:
Hervey, the rest centre door.

HERVEY:
Yes. Right. (GOES TO OBEY)

(CROWD REACT)

MAN:
I don't believe it!

WOMAN:
Their skin! Look at their skin!

SESHA:
(TO CROWD) There is no cause for alarm. The strangers are clean now.

MAN:
Just the sight of them...

SESHA:
Hervey, get that door open!

(FX: ENTRYCODER BLEEPS AND DOOR OPENS)

SESHA (CONT):
Into the rest centre, Doctor. (TO CROWD) I shall supervise the Doctor and Tegan personally until the meeting at eighteen-hundred hours. In the meantime, the rest centre is out of bounds. Fresh scour-creams will be provided in Section D's shower block.

HERVEY:
(QUICKLY) I'll help you guard them, Sister Sessa.

(FX: Doors close.)

WOMAN:
(TO SELF) Rescue. Imagine...

(SOUND DESIGN FAVOURS MERTIL AND JESTAN OVER LEAVING CROWD)

MERTIL:

Truth, Jestan. These people wouldn't know truth if you scrubbed their eyes with it. Laxity like this will ruin Purity.

JESTAN:

Sesha's started to win the people round. She spoke well.

MERTIL

Why must the young seek always to discard the past? She has her father's tongue, and the fire that used to burn in him. (FX: SCOOOSH OF SOAP AS SHE SCRUBS HERSELF) I did so much to reach Anulf's side. But I could never stir up those old passions.

JESTAN:

There was fire between us once, Mertil.

MERTIL:

A new widow's fire sleeps, Jestan, till it is more seemly. But I have your support in seeking rule?

JESTAN:

Of course. Should those of our years seek to discard the past too?

(THE SOUND OF HER SCOURING HER SKIN FADES UP LOUD BENEATH LAST SPEECH)

MERTIL:

Those of our ambition should not. We must deal with my stepdaughter and the strangers.

JESTAN:

Do you truly believe they are linked to the Takers?

MERTIL:

No. I believe they are travellers, just as they say. But they are dangerous. Their words and deeds are a pollution that must be driven from Purity – if not by machine, then by our own pristine hands.

SCENE 30: INT. REST CENTRE. DAY.

TEGAN:

(COMING ROUND) Wow. I feel like I've been tumble-dried.

DOCTOR:

Just – lie still, Tegan. If you would.

SESHA:

(TO TEGAN) I'm so sorry for what happened.

TEGAN:

You're in charge, Sessa. Can't you have that Mertil locked up?

SESHA:

She has too much influence. Until yesterday she was Wife to Brother Anulf – and I was his unruly daughter.

HERVEY:

You can beat her, though, Sessa. You were amazing out there. The people like you.

SESHA:

Oh, Hervey. They don't like change. Mertil spoke and acted for many.

HERVEY:

And she tried to use me. (SIGHS) I made such a fool of myself today.

SESHA:

On a day of rescue? No-one will remember.

TEGAN:

Doctor, will you stop pacing?

DOCTOR:

You know, this equipment shows signs of being dismantled and put back together again. (BEAT) I can see portions of the original spaceship have been incorporated into Purity's infrastructure. But this rest centre seems bolted on later, and it lacks a lot of standard equipment.

SESHA:

Everything that could be salvaged was done so. A hundred years ago.

HERVEY:

The rest is in the ghost place.

TEGAN:

The where?

SESHA:

It's always been called that. The ruins of the Section. Away in the forest to the south.

DOCTOR:

Could I see it?

HERVEY:

It's a long hike. Only the Shades go there. It's just dirty, rusting junk.

DOCTOR:

I might be able to learn something from it. Something important.

SESHA:

I can't take you, I'm needed here.

TEGAN:

Just point us in the right direction, we'll find it.

DOCTOR:

No, Tegan, you must stay here.

TEGAN:

I'm fine now, really!

SESHA:

No, Tegan. If both you and the Doctor go...

DOCTOR:

It'll seem like we're walking all over you, yes.

TEGAN:

All right.

SESHA:

But you must be guarded, Doctor. Hervey, will you guide the Doctor, and be back in good time for tonight's meeting?

HERVEY:

Me?

SESHA:

I need someone I can trust. Take Jestan with you. I'd rather he and Mertil were kept apart.

SCENE 31: EXT. ALIEN FOREST. DAY

(FX: OVER FOREST AMBIENCE AND SHADES THE SLUGGISH BLUR OF NOISE HERALDS TURLOUGH AND NYSSA'S ARRIVAL)

TURLOUGH:

Ugh. I'm alive. In one piece. Nyssa...?

NYSSA:

I made it too. We're back, Turlough. Back across the river.

TURLOUGH:

So this is how the Takers can keep taking. Fully functional, they'd be able to teleport right into the heart of the settlement.

NYSSA:

What do you think triggered it? We'd only just entered the tunnel...

TURLOUGH:

Maybe it was some property of the tunnel itself. Why hide the entrance behind a force-field?

NYSSA:

That feeling at the back of my neck... The other end of the tunnel's close by.

TURLOUGH:

There. That boulder's not real, it's a projection concealing the entrance behind another barrier.

NYSSA:

But why do the Takers need the tunnel if they can transport themselves and others at will?

TURLOUGH:

Let's just find that settlement and get the Doctor and Tegan out so we can all get back to the TARDIS...

NYSSA:

And hope the Takers can't track us out here.

TURLOUGH:

We'll try this way. Come on!

SCENE 32: INT. REST CENTRE. DAY.

(FX: ENTRY CODER AND DOOR OPENS)

SESHA:

Are you feeling better, Tegan?

TEGAN:

Huh? Oh. I fell asleep. (STRETCHES) Weirdest dreams.

SESHA:

This day feels like a dream. So unreal.

TEGAN:

I wonder how the Doctor and Hervey are getting on.

SESHA:

They must be nearing the Ghost Place now.

TEGAN:

Jestan went with them?

SESHA:

Once he'd asked Mertil's permission.

TEGAN:

Really?

SESHA:

I don't know. They had a huddled meeting about something.

TEGAN:

Sounds like you were right to separate them. (SITS UP) What's the mood in Purity?

SESHA:

Some are afraid. Some feel... anticipation. I wish... so much... that things could change.

TEGAN:

One thing you can be sure of, Sessa – things change around the Doctor.

SCENE 33: EXT. GHOST PLACE. DAY

(FX: NO WILDLIFE AMBIENCE, ONLY MORE SHADES THAN WE'VE BEEN USED TO, AND THE WIND)

HERVEY:

(WALKING TO HALT) Here we are then, Doctor. The Section.

JESTAN:

The Ghost Place.

DOCTOR:

Interesting. The remains of another prefabricated building, but this one built well away from the main camp. (BEAT) Quarantine, perhaps?

JESTAN:

What's so interesting? It's just a heap of dirty metal. Corroded. Corrupted! Even the native fauna leaves it alone.

DOCTOR:

But the Shades like it here.

HERVEY:

The Elders say the way to the next life is hidden here, and that the Shades search for it forever, in vain.

JESTAN:

The unclean shall always be barred from true purity. It's a place that tricks the eyes. You see movement where there is no movement.

DOCTOR:

As though the Shades were crossing over into a visual wavelength. But why here? That's what's interesting, Jestan. That – and those markings...

HERVEY:

Like something hit the side of the Section. (REALISES) I've seen that pattern before.

DOCTOR:

Back in the Rest Centre, yes. The VR unit and the Sleep-Aider bear the same scars; they were obviously looted from this part of the wreck. A massive outrush of energy took place here, disrupting and displacing cellular matter at an intra-dimensional level.

JESTAN:

What are you babbling about?

DOCTOR:

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to babble. I wasn't actually referring to those markings at all - but to the green crescent you can see there on the side of the ship. Ring any bells? Nothing in Sir John's litany? Or the surgeon's litany, I should say - 'Sir John' is a simple verbal corruption over the years, the real meaning long since lost.

HERVEY:

I don't understand?

DOCTOR:

The green crescent is the universal symbol for a hospital. Purity is built around a vast medical ship. I imagine your people are all descended from the original patients.

HERVEY:

Our ancestors...?

SCENE 34: EXT. PATH OVERLOOKING PURITY BAY. DAY

NYSSA:

So that's the settlement.

TURLOUGH:

A fading huddle of emergency shelters... Bits of junk hauled out from a downed spaceship... These people might as well have put up a sign for the Takers – attack us please, we're helpless.

NYSSA:

That's just it, they are helpless. In need of rescue. (SHADES FLIT ABOUT NYSSA) The Shades are back.

TURLOUGH:

I can almost feel them. Like bats flapping past in the dark...

NYSSA:

'Clean... soon'.

TURLOUGH:

I'm sorry?

NYSSA:

'Forever...'

TURLOUGH:

Nyssa, are you alright-?

NYSSA:

Can't you hear them whisper? Something terrible happened here on Chodor.

TURLOUGH:

It happened to me, last night. I know we need to rescue the Doctor and Tegan, but I'm in no hurry to be mobbed again just for the colour of my hair. (PAUSE) Perhaps we should use their fear of the Takers against them. That trick I used on the Taker in the cave might work even better on the people down there...

NYSSA:

It might. Come on, we'd better go.

(TURLOUGH AND NYSSA MOVE OFF. THE SHADES SEEM TO GATHER WHERE THEY STOOD, GETTING CLOSER IN SPEAKERS)

SCENE 35: INT. REST CENTRE. DAY

TEGAN:

It's getting dark. I hate waiting around.

SESHA:

Here in Purity that's all we ever do, day after day after day.
(FX: SHE SCOOSHES SOAP)

TEGAN:

How d'you pass the time?

SESHA:

We learn the books in the library off by heart... We hold tight.
And we do occupational therapy – make things, write and draw,
take turns to prepare food.

TEGAN:

At least you know your hands are clean. (BEAT) Why do you do
it? Always washing the whole time.

SESHA:

Water and soap kill germs. Sir John's litany says so – the
harder you scrub, the more you kill.

TEGAN:

But look what it's done to you. Your hands... your poor face.

SESHA:

The thicker the skin, the stronger the faith. (PAUSE) You don't
believe in any of this, do you, Tegan?

TEGAN:

You're strong, Sessa. Have faith in yourself.

SESHA:

I don't feel very strong. First I lost my mother. And now,
without my father... (BEAT) You know, Purity's leader has special
armour. My father never wore it. He felt strong enough without
it.

TEGAN:

You don't need armour. You're coping. You'll go on coping, with
friends like Hervey around you, till you know what it is you
really need.

SESHA:

Thank you, Tegan –

(FX: BANG AT THE DOOR)

ANTAN:

Sister Sessa. Come quickly!

SESHA:
I must go.

TEGAN:
A leader's work's never done.

(FX: ENTRY CODER. DOOR OPENS. MERTIL RUSHES IN WITH ANTAN)

MERTIL:
Ah, Sesha.

SESHA:
Mertil? What is the meaning of [this-?]

MERTIL:
Antan, watch the stranger.

TEGAN:
Found yourself another puppy, have you?

ANTAN:
Be quiet, woman —

TEGAN:
Stay away from me!

SESHA:
Mertil! Explain yourself!

MERTIL:
You really shouldn't hide from your people, Sesha. Alone with the stranger, anything might happen. (BEAT) Anything at all.

SESHA:
What-?

MERTIL:
Antan — the blade, if you will.

ANTAN:
My lady — (PASSES HER SCALPEL)

TEGAN:
A scalpel-?

MERTIL:
Sir John's blade, woman. And may Sir John's hand be on mine.

SESHA:
What are you doing? Mertil, Mertil, no-!!!

SCENE 36: EXT. GHOST PLACE. DAY

JESTAN:

You say we are descended from the sick?

DOCTOR:

The sick, the injured, the wounded, the traumatised. That's where you find a mind-stimulator next to a sleep-aider! In a hospital ward where different residents have different needs.

HERVEY:

I... this is incredible... Doctor, where was the ship going?

DOCTOR:

I don't know. But Mertil was right – the rescue you hoped for can't be coming, not after so long. The Takers are exploiting the situation, and as for the Shades... I don't know. I just don't know. I'm missing something..

HERVEY:

Sesha needs to hear this. Come on, Jestan. We must get back to Purity.

JESTAN:

Sorry, boy. I've heard enough. You're staying here with the Shades. (GRABS HERVEY)

HERVEY:

J-Jestan, please. You're hurting me –

DOCTOR:

Let him go, Jestan!

JESTAN:

... to find your way to the next life.

(FX: HERVEY'S NECK BREAKS. HE SLUMPS HEAVILY TO THE GROUND. THE SHADES FLUTTER)

DOCTOR:

(CROUCHES TO EXAMINE HIM) His neck's broken. (RISES) With all the twisted lengths you go to in order to preserve life in Purity, you killed him in a moment. Why?

JESTAN:

Me? No. You killed him, Doctor...

DOCTOR:

What-?

JESTAN:

... and when I show the people of Purity Hervey's poor, broken body, they won't just want an eye for an eye – they'll want to flay the flesh from your bones.

END OF PART TWO

PART THREE

REPRISE:

DOCTOR:

(CROUCHES TO EXAMINE HIM) His neck's broken. (RISES) With all the twisted lengths you go to in order to preserve life in Purity, you killed him in a moment. Why?

JESTAN:

Me? No. You killed him, Doctor...

DOCTOR:

What-?

JESTAN:

... and when I show the people of Purity Hervey's poor, broken body, they won't just want an eye for an eye – they'll want to flay the flesh from your bones.

(SCENE CONTINUES:)

SCENE 37: EXT. GHOST PLACE. DAY

DOCTOR:

With Mertil urging them on, no doubt, branding Sesha a fool for ever trusting me, is that it?

JESTAN:

Mertil's taking care of Sesha and your woman.

DOCTOR:

If Tegan is harmed –

JESTAN:

There's nothing you can do, nothing you can change.

DOCTOR:

Jestan. You know we're nothing to do with the Takers.

JESTAN:

The people don't. The people need more discipline, better management. That's why Mertil has to be their leader.

DOCTOR:

Nonsense! They need knowledge, understanding. Mertil will keep them in fear and ignorance, at the mercy of the Takers.

JESTAN:

We'll deal with them too. We've seen them run. We will take the fight to them!

SCENE 38: INT. REST CENTRE. DAY

TEGAN:

Put the scalpel away, Mertil.

MERTIL:

Hold the stranger, Antan! I shall be – must be – Purity's leader. It is my destiny!

SESHA:

It is my right!

MERTIL:

So long now I have prepared for this, prepared for my moment –

SESHA:

You married my father but months ago-!

MERTIL:

Before that, even. I remember your mother, girl. Remember the look on her face as she fell from the clifftop.

SESHA:

What-?

TEGAN:

You killed her mother-?

MERTIL:

She stood between me and Brother Anulf's power. What else could I do-?

SESHA:

No-!!!

MERTIL:

Now it is you who stands in my way, 'Sister Sessa'.

TEGAN:

(STRUGGLING) Mertil, don't you dare –

MERTIL:

Blessed be the hand of Sir John.

SESHA:

(CRIES OUT, STABBED)

(BEAT)

TEGAN:

You've killed her-!

SCENE 39: EXT. GHOST PLACE. DAY

DOCTOR:

Jestan, listen to me. Whoever these Takers are, they've been preying on you for over a hundred years. You don't understand them. You've never so much as seen them clearly. If you try to attack them, you'll only be risking more lives.

JESTAN:

You've said enough, Doctor!

DOCTOR:

Oh. So now you're going to kill me too?

(FX: SHADES RUSTLING, WHISPERING, GETTING SUDDENLY CLOSER)

JESTAN:

Be quiet, cursed creatures!

DOCTOR:

The Shades. They're gathering. Hervey said they had an affinity with this place. Perhaps the energies released here have – agh!

(HE CRIES OUT AS THE FX: SHADE SOUND INCREASES)

JESTAN:

(PAINED) I said, be quiet-!

DOCTOR:

Listen. They're trying to communicate...

JESTAN:

Get out of my head!

(FX: WE HEAR SPOOKY WHISPERED WORDS RISING ABOVE THE HUBBUB)

DOCTOR:

I'm listening... What are you trying to say?

SHADE:

Clean... Take... forever.

DOCTOR:

I don't understand.

SHADE:

Kill... Stay... forever.

DOCTOR:

I can hear the words but I don't understand. (FX: SOUND STARTS TO FADE) Hello? Hello?

JESTAN:

Begone, foul whisperers!

DOCTOR:
They've lost their focus, that's all. Now – where were we? Oh
yes –

(FX: PUNCHES JESTAN ON JAW)

JESTAN:
(SURPRISE)

(FX: FLUMPS TO FLOOR)

DOCTOR:
Please forgive me, but under the circumstances... yes, well. (TO
SELF) Tegan!

SCENE 40: INT. REST CENTRE. DAY

TEGAN:
Murderer! How could you do that-?!?

MERTIL:
Quiet. Her wound is not mortal.

TEGAN:
Sesha? Can you hear me? Sesha!

SESHA:
(GURGLES, WOOZY) Mertil. You will – will not... (PASSES OUT)

TEGAN:
She needs medical attention! Now!

MERTIL:
And she shall have it. When the Takers come for her.

TEGAN:
Sesha was right. You are mad!

MERTIL:
Secure the stranger in the sleep inducer, Antan.

ANTAN:
As you wish.

TEGAN:
(DRAGGED OFF) No! Get off me!

MERTIL:
... meanwhile, I must address the people.

(FX: FADE)

SCENE 41: INT. TAKERS' CAVE. DAY

TAKER #1:

Rogue lifesigns affecting signal interpretation. Projection field limited.

TAKER #2:

There has been a fatality. And one other is deeply harmed.

TAKER #1:

Prepare for transference.

SCENE 42: EXT. PATH/PURITY CLEARING. DUSK

TURLOUGH:

(HISSED) What's happening down there? Nyssa?

NYSSA:

The settlers are gathering. There's that woman, the one who called you "red-thatch".

(FX: CROSS TO PURITY CLEARING:)

MERTIL:

People of Purity! I warned you all, we could not trust the strangers. Sister Sesha did not believe and she has paid the price for a heart rimed with dirt.

(FX: CROWD DISQUIET. CROSS BACK TO PATH:)

MERTIL:

(CONTINUES UNDER NYSSA/TURLOUGH DIALOGUE) *Now she is hurt, their allies the Takers will surely try to come and steal her away. But I have spoken to the Takers! I drove them away once. Who will stand with me, so I can do so again? Scour yourselves. Scrub the dirt from your skin and your soul. If we are to stand against their corruption we must be spotless-clean!*

TURLOUGH:

Sounds like they have a dirt fixation.

NYSSA:

The Doctor and Tegan would never have hurt anyone.

TURLOUGH:

Whatever the circumstances, that woman's stirring up a lynch mob.

(FX: SHADES CHITTER)

NYSSA:

The Shades don't like it either.

TURLOUGH:

So. What are we going to do?

(FX: CROSS BACK TO CLEARING:)

MERTIL:

We stand clean and in virtue. Now let us kill the spike-haired girl. Let us open her dirt-packed veins and take from her as her Taker friends have taken from us!

(FX: CROWD CHEERS)

NYSSA:

(SHOUTED FROM OFF) No! You're making a terrible mistake.

(CROWD REACT IN FEAR.)

MERTIL:

You... here!

NYSSA:

(CALLIN OUT) This woman thought that I was an acolyte to these Takers, but it's not true. I am a traveller, and so are my friends.

MERTIL:

Don't believe her! Look at her - soft white skin, hair like muddied brambles. She is a thing of corruption and indolence, to be stamped out.

NYSSA:

If I served the Takers would I bring you - this?

(FX: REACHES INTO THICKET AND PULLS OUT TAKER. BIG CROWD REACTION)

CROWD MEMBERS:

It's one of them!

A Taker!

WOMAN:

If she can do that to a Taker, what could she do to us?

NYSSA:

I escaped from the Takers and came here, to show you we mean no harm to any of you!

(FX: CONTINUES UNDER AS WE CROSS TO:)

SCENE 43: INT. REST CENTRE. DUSK

(FX: SOOTHING PULSE OF THE SLEEP INDUCER. NYSSA AND MERTIL'S DIALOGUE FAINT, FROM OUTSIDE)

TEGAN:

(STRUGGLING FEEBLY AGAINST STRAPS) ... I will not sleep. I will not sleep. I will – (DROWSY) not... s[leep –]

MERTIL:

No harm? This is a trick. Sister Sesha lies dying, at the hands of the spike-haired girl. And where is the Doctor? Who knows what he has done to Jestan and Hervey?

NYSSA:

I am not tricking you.

TEGAN:

(WOOZY) Nyssa...?

NYSSA:

I know my friends, they would never knowingly harm anyone.

MERTIL:

Never knowingly – yes, like the mud never knowingly oozes into the wound, as dirt never knowingly affects the heart!

(FX: BLUR OF THE TAKERS APPEARING IN REST CENTRE)

TEGAN:

What...? Who are you?

TAKER #1:

You are sick. You must be taken.

TEGAN:

Leave me alone.

TAKER #2:

We have come to take you.

TEGAN:

Please, get back! I'm not like the others... No!!!

(FX BLUR OF TAKERS LEAVING WITH TEGAN. FROM OFF:)

(BEAT)

(FX: ENTRY CODER FROM OUTSIDE. DOOR. DOCTOR SNEAKS IN)

DOCTOR:

(SOTTO) Tegan...? (BEAT; TO SELF) Funny, I could have sworn I heard her voice.

SCENE 44: EXT. PURITY CLEARING. DUSK

(FX: HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF SHADES SWOOPING)

MERTIL:

Disregard the whisperers! We will fetch the spike-haired girl. We will hear the filth fall from her mouth...

(FX: BLUR OF TAKERS CAN BE HEARD FAR OFF)

WOMAN:

Look there! At the forest edge. Takers!

NYSSA:

They've got Tegan!

MERTIL:

A trick! (ROUNDS ON NYSSA) You distracted us so the Takers could help your friend escape our justice.

(FX: A DIFFERENT HUM OF POWER STARTS UP, FROM REST CENTRE)

NYSSA:

When will you listen? If I was in league with the Takers, they would have taken me with them.

MERTIL:

They left you here to spread more contagion, more corruption. Antan – kill her now. Carve the dirt out of her. Kill her!

NYSSA:

No!

(TURLOUGH'S VOICE SOUNDS, PURPOSEFULLY SPOOKY FROM THE FOREST)

TURLOUGH:

(OFF) Leave the stranger!

MAN:

What was that?

TURLOUGH:

(OFF) Your actions have displeased the Shades. Stay away from her or we shall destroy you all!

MERTIL:

Don't be afraid. It's another trick! Don't let the girl go – Come back. We must... (SHE'S GROWING TIRED) ... must be strong...

ANTAN:

(DROWSY) Mertil? I – I can't keep my eyes open...

MERTIL:

(DROWSY) What? ... What is this...?

(FX: PEOPLE ARE SLUMPING TO THE GROUND, ASLEEP)

WOMAN/CROWD:

What's happening...?

Got to sleep.

NYSSA:

(ALSO AFFLICTED) I don't... understand...

TURLOUGH:

(RUSHING UP) Nyssa! Snap out of it!

(FX: ENTRY CODER OFF, REST CENTRE DOOR OPENS)

NYSSA:

What's happening? Turlough?

TURLOUGH:

I tried to scare them off. I wasn't expecting them all to fall asleep.

DOCTOR:

(OFF) Ah. That'll be down to me, I'm afraid.

TURLOUGH/NYSSA:

Doctor!

DOCTOR:

(OFF) Into the rest centre. Quickly.

(THEY RUN INSIDE)

SCENE 45: EXT. TAKERS' CAVE. NIGHT

(FX: BLUR OF TAKERS TRANSPORTING)

TEGAN:

(SHOCK) Where are we now?

TAKER #1:

The Shades did not follow?

TAKER #2:

The Sterility wall still stands at full integrity.

TEGAN:

Let me go. I'm not even a part of Purity. I'm not even sick! What about Sessa? She's hurt, you can't take me and not her...

TAKER #1:

Take the subject for processing.

TEGAN:

Not your disappearing trick again...

(FX: BLUR OF TAKERS TRANSPORTING)

SCENE 46: INT. REST CENTRE. DUSK

(FX: HUM OF SLEEP MACHINE)

DOCTOR:

Won't be a moment. I need to maintain the booster circuit in this sleep inducer so Mertil's lynch mob won't wake up too soon.

NYSSA:

So that's how –

DOCTOR:

Exactly. We're safe in here, in the eye of the hurricane, so to speak –

TURLOUGH:

Yes, but – where did you spring from, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

The Ghost Place – where a section of hospital-ship rusts quietly in the afterglow of some very strange energies. I took advantage of your excellent distraction to slip inside and put the people to sleep.

NYSSA:
Doctor. The Takers have taken Tegan.

DOCTOR:
Yes, I thought as much.

TURLOUGH:
I just hope she isn't badly hurt.

DOCTOR:
Quite. I found Sister Sesha dumped under a sheet, in the side room. Nyssa, could you check on her, please?

NYSSA:
Of course. (EXITS)

TURLOUGH:
Doctor, I think we know where Tegan's been taken.

DOCTOR:
You do? (BEAT) Yes. Good. Because we can't stay here. The sleep inducer won't last, it wasn't designed for sustained wide broadcast — (ANOTHER THOUGHT) Why?

TURLOUGH:
I don't know, I'm not a technician!

DOCTOR:
No, I mean, why didn't the Takers take Sesha when they took Tegan?

NYSSA (CALLS FROM SIDE ROOM):
Here's your answer. Body armour beneath her coveralls. The actual wound isn't so serious.

DOCTOR (TO SELF):
Body armour? On a hospital ship?

(FX: SLEEP MACHINE EXPLODES — HUM STOPS)

TURLOUGH:
There goes your sleep inducer.

DOCTOR:
We must go. We've got to get Tegan back from the Takers. We'll take Sesha with us. Turlough, you can lead the way. Come on, there's not a moment to waste!

SCENE 47: INT. TAKERS' CAVE (PROCESSING AREA). NIGHT

(FX: FADE UP. STEADY POWER HUM, GENTLE BLEEPS — IT'S A MEDICAL WARD)

TEGAN:
Where am I?

TAKER:
In the Recovery Area.

TEGAN:
Thanks, I'm so much the wiser.

TAKER:
You are in the recovery area of Segregated Community Zone Chodor-one-alpha.

TEGAN:
Felt so strange... like I was looking down at myself. What did you do to me?

TAKER:
No medical treatment was prescribed.

TEGAN:
Medical treatment?

TAKER:
You were processed in error. You are a space traveller outside our authority. You do not belong in the settlement.

TEGAN:
I told you that much, before you zapped me off here.

TAKER:
Interference in monitor systems resulted in your being taken in error.

(FX: HUM FLUCTUATES THEN STEADIES)

TEGAN:
Not been paying your electric bill?

TAKER:
Power supply is at a premium. You are not eligible for treatment. You are not eligible for compensation. You will remain in Segregated community zone Chodor-one-alpha.

TEGAN:
I don't want to stay here. I have to find my friends.

TAKER:

You are not eligible to find your friends. Changes in your medical condition may lead to reassessment of treatment rights. Attempts to leave will result in termination. This is your only warning.

TEGAN:

You mean I have to stay here forever?

ANULF:

(FROM OFF) If you want to live. We all must, all who've been taken – even a traveller from the stars.

TEGAN:

Who are you?

ANULF:

(APPROACHING) In Purity... I was Brother Anulf.

SCENE 48: EXT: CHODOR FOREST. NIGHT.

(FX: LOTS OF SHADES BUZZING ABOUT)

DOCTOR:

(STOPPING, CARRYING TAKER HUSK) Turlough, Nyssa, are you sure this is the way?

NYSSA:

I hope so. We're looking for the entrance to a kind of service tunnel. But the forest looks very different by night.

TURLOUGH:

(WEIGHED DOWN) Can we rest? Carrying this woman uphill is killing me...

DOCTOR:

I admit, this half-Taker of yours isn't the lightest of objects. (SETS TAKER DOWN) All right. Just for a moment. Set her down here on the grass.

(FX: TURLOUGH SETS SETHA DOWN)

NYSSA:

Mind SETHA's head-!

DOCTOR:

I'm certain those Shades are following us. What do they want?

NYSSA:

They're telepathic on some level, I think.

TURLOUGH:

What, they're trying to communicate?

DOCTOR:

If only we could ask them for directions.

TURLOUGH:

I'm afraid we weren't checking for landmarks when we were running for our lives from the Takers' lair, on our way to rescue you.

NYSSA:

It's all right. He's only worried about Tegan.

DOCTOR:

And the future of this community. Between the Takers and Mertil's machinations it doesn't look promising.

SESHA:

(GROANS)

NYSSA:

Sesha's coming round.

DOCTOR:

We'd better check that dressing you made for her has staunched the bleeding. Bring your Taker's head-light a little closer, would you. (PAUSE) Luminous. Why luminous?

SESHA:

(GROANS AGAIN) Mertil, NO!

DOCTOR:

It's all right, Sesha. Hold still.

SESHA:

Doctor? Mertil and Antan attacked us. Tegan and I.

DOCTOR:

Was Tegan hurt?

SESHA:

She was struggling. I didn't see – Ow.

NYSSA:

Luckily your body armour prevented the blade from going too deep.

SESHA:

Father's armour. To make me strong. (PAUSE) Who are you?

DOCTOR:

These are the two friends I told you about, Turlough and Nyssa.

SESHA:

Where's Hervey? Why isn't he with you? Is he all right...?

DOCTOR:

I'm sorry, Sessa. Jestan killed him. He wanted your people to believe I was responsible. A martyr for Mertil's cause.

SESHA:

Dead... because of her. She's deranged, Doctor. She killed my mother, she told me – just to clear a path to my father. She's so desperate for influence, to make everyone as extreme as she is.

DOCTOR:

After the way things have turned out – and in the absence of other candidates – I'm afraid influence is almost certainly what she's got. And she'll mean to use it.

SCENE 49: EXT. PURITY CLEARING. DUSK

(GROANS OF PEOPLE WAKING, CONFUSED)

JESTAN:

Mertil? Mertil, wake up! What has happened here? The Rest Centre's full of smoke.

MERTIL:

Jestan? Something made me sleep...

JESTAN:

Made all of you sleep. On the ground?

MERTIL (MOANS WITH FEAR AS SHE RISES):

The Doctor. (FX: SCOOSH OF SOAP, SCRUBBING) He was here. In the confusion, he put everyone to sleep with that rest centre machine... How did he escape you?

JESTAN:

The Shades helped him in the place of ghosts. They attacked me.

MERTIL

The Shades can hurt no-one. (SEETHING) I don't understand how the Takers left Sessa, but took the spike-haired girl. Is she really in league with them, her and her friends? And have they really taken my daughter?

JESTAN:

I don't know... I did as you said with Hervey.

MERTIL:

Ahhh. Perhaps the boy can still be of use.

JESTAN:

Your plans still stand?

MERTIL:

While Sessa lives I will never know rightful power. And while the Takers take I will never know security. Only by uniting all Purity will we have strength to vanquish their evil. Uniting them by any means. Yes, Jestan, my plans still stand.

JESTAN:

The people are waking now.

MERTIL

And no one will have realised what happened. So the truth is ours to twist. (CALLING) Rouse yourselves from the filthy ground. The Strangers have killed young Hervey!

(FX: CROWD SHOCK)

JESTAN:

I was lucky to survive myself.

MERTIL:

Remember, the boy fell at the Doctor's look before. A second look struck him dead. Now we too have fallen and a second could kill any one of us.

WOMAN:

We must hide!

MERTIL:

No. We must follow him, and kill him. All of us together, with night-lanterns – so he cannot look at any one of us. Scour your skin, people of Purity. We are right and we are strong. Scrub harder. Harder!

(FX: CROWD SCRUBBING SKIN, SOBS, RAPTURES etc)

SCENE 50: EXT: CHODOR FOREST. NIGHT.

(FX: CHITTERING OF THE SHADES THICKENING UNDER:)

NYSSA:
Doctor...

DOCTOR:
Yes, Nyssa, I know. It's time to go. Sesha - I know you've been through so much, and you don't have to come with us, of course. But we must find Tegan.

SESHA:
I'll come, Doctor. If you find Tegan, perhaps I will find my father.

(FX: THE TAKER HUSK TWITCHING INTO LIFE. THE SHADES' CHITTERING TURNS INTO A SWELLING CACOPHONY)

NYSSA:
Doctor, look!!

TURLOUGH:
Our taker's having some kind of fit.

NYSSA:
We knew there was residual power in the cells, but...

(SUDDENLY THE DREADFUL NOISE CUTS OUT. NORMAL AMBIENCE.)

TAKER:
Clean.

(ALL BUT DOCTOR REACT)

SESHA:
Sir John's hand, shield me!

DOCTOR:
The Taker's remains haven't spoken before?

TURLOUGH:
It hasn't moved either.

TAKER:
Forever. Only us. Heal. Take flesh. Make fresh. Only us.

NYSSA:
That's a Taker's voice... But the words are the Shades', aren't they?

DOCTOR:

They're animating it. Synthetic flesh and artificial synapses, seems they can enter the form and inhabit it.

SESHA:

The Shades are always out in force when the Takers walk.

NYSSA:

Drawn to their physical stability, perhaps.

DOCTOR:

Hello? Can you understand me?

TAKER:

Section. Must leave. Must find. Heal.

DOCTOR:

Who are we speaking to?

TAKER:

We are many. Any. We are any. Takers take. Takers keep. Heal. Keep takers. Keep take. Keep sake.

(TAKER'S BABBLE CONTINUES SPORADICALLY UNDER SPEECH)

TURLOUGH:

It's just babbling.

DOCTOR:

Or the last echoes of consciousness. I think the Shades were once living beings. They were turned by some cataclysm into these... revenants. That's why so many linger at the Place of Ghosts. I'm wondering if that's yet another name on Chodor that's lost its meaning.

SESHA:

What?

NYSSA:

The Doctor believes your colony is descended from the patients of a hospital ship.

DOCTOR:

Your people's persistence in doing nothing but holding tight to the wreckage of your ancestors' lives left a vacuum at the heart of Purity. To fill that absence, the simple rituals of cleanliness in a hospital ward have been conflated with a handful of half-remembered maxims into the basis for your entire culture.

SESHA:

That's... all we are?

NYSSA:

How could things get so out of hand?

DOCTOR:

Something must have happened to the real medical practitioners - without their guidance, the patients were left to their own devices. Something certainly happened at the Section in the Ghost Place, the disruption matrix was unlike anything I've seen.

TAKER:

Section. Sickness. Live. Let live. Give. Live. Take. (CONTINUE UNDER:-)

TURLOUGH:

Seemed to strike a chord.

NYSSA:

Richter's Syndrome. Does that mean anything to you? Richter's?

(VOICE STOPS DEAD)

DOCTOR:

Apparently it does.

SESHA:

What is Richter's Syndrome?

NYSSA:

A devastating illness. There may have been traces of it here..

TAKER:

(SLURRING) The Shades must not take us.

DOCTOR:

That's the real Taker. It's reasserted control over its speech circuits.

SESHA:

Why have you persecuted us? Why take my father, and Tegan, and so many others before them?

TAKER:

I am Battlespace Auto-Medic Unit G6. Your welfare must be maintained.

SCENE 51: EXT: TAKERS' SEGREGATED COMMUNITY ZONE. NIGHT

(FX: TEGAN & ANULF WALKING. CALM AMBIENCE. MAYBE FOUNTAINS)

ANULF:

I cannot believe all you have told me, Tegan. I ruled Purity for twenty years. And in a single day... I knew Mertil to be ambitious, but this?

TEGAN:

At least Sesha isn't here with you. If her condition was life-threatening, the Takers would jump in, right?

ANULF:

Perhaps she is already dead. She said... she would never forgive me for marrying Mertil.

TEGAN:

Trust me - she didn't mean it. (PAUSE) When they see me out in these communal areas, Anulf, aren't people going to start running for the hills at the unclean sight of me?

ANULF:

There is no fear. Everything is clean here, stranger.

TEGAN:

It's just like Purity, only it smells better. Properly clean. No Shades. All this time, these robot Taker things have been bringing your sick or dying people here to be made well?

ANULF:

It seems so. I have devoted so much of my rule to devising ways to defend Purity and attack the Takers. And yet they have made my heart whole so quickly, and just with machines. I've met again with old friends I thought would have died of their wounds or sickness, seen the children of some who were taken when I was young.

TEGAN:

But where did the Takers come from?

ANULF:

They have always been here.

TEGAN:

And your people are allowed to do what they like, apart from leave? Even start families?

ANULF:

The Takers take care of us all. They house us. Keep us clean with special air and water, filtered through a... a sterile wall, I think they called it. Like an invisible bubble that keeps out the dirt and even the Shades. We believed the river so filthy we could not cross it without dying. And yet all the time, on just the other side lay this secret place...

(FX MEASURED FOOTSTEPS)

TEGAN:

They keep an eye on you too, I see. How thoughtful of them. Fountains, fields, peace and quiet, great views. (TAKES A BIG BREATH) It's the prettiest prison I ever saw. But it's not keeping me.

SCENE 52: EXT: CHODOR FOREST. NIGHT.

(FX: FOREST AMBIENCE — FEW SHADES)

NYSSA:

Auto-medics? That's all the Takers are — medical drones?

DOCTOR:

Designed to treat the wounded in combat situations, and to evacuate them — hence their transmat capability, for instant patient transportation. The glowing orange skullcap not only provides light, but marks out the medics in poor visibility.

TURLOUGH:

The ones that chased us quoted combat regulations at us. They must think they're still on a war footing.

NYSSA:

But what did it mean, 'Your welfare must be maintained'?

SESHA:

(TO TAKER) Well? You abduct us, silence us...

TAKER:

We are programmed to heal you. In secret.

DOCTOR:

Oh? What prompted that decision?

TAKER:

Forty-four patients with suspected Richter's Syndrome contracted in Dravidian war zone. Post-crash: Housed in quarantined section. Prognosis: No cure. Risk of infecting majority of ward. Action recommended under active combat regulation two-zero-five: euthanasia.

NYSSA:

There was no cure other than to kill all those people?

DOCTOR:

Not one known to auto-medics in the 28th century it seems.

TAKER (BADLY SLURRED):

For the good... of the... community.

DOCTOR:

How many times have I heard that justification for the worst atrocities?

TURLOUGH:

Doesn't look as though we'll get any more out of him. His energy must be completely depleted.

SESHA:

We've always wondered where the people of the Section went...

TURLOUGH:

Up in smoke, it seems.

NYSSA:

That's not funny.

DOCTOR:

And not necessarily true. Something tells me the proposed euthanasia of the sufferers went badly wrong.

NYSSA:

The energy blast you told us about – an outrush of intra-dimensional energy.

DOCTOR:

Tearing through different layers of reality, mauling mind and matter – and creating the Shades.

SESHA:

(SOUNDING WEAK) They're our... ancestors?

DOCTOR:

And they've been haunting you ever since. Living ghosts forged in the fallout of some tremendous explosion.

SESHA:

All this time, they've been trying... to speak to us?

NYSSA:

Sesha, you're burning up.

SESHA:
I'm all right.

DOCTOR:
Let me see. Hmm, your pulse is quickening too.

TURLOUGH:
A pity this Taker can't do his job.

SESHA:
If only it could tell us more.

DOCTOR:
We must find others who can and get treatment for you - at the Takers' hideaway.

NYSSA:
I'm sure it's close by - Hey!

(THEY REACT AS BRIGHT LIGHT IS SHONE ON THEM)

TURLOUGH:
What's that light?!?

JESTAN (FROM FAR OFF):
There! That's them.

SESHA:
Night-lighters. Jestan's brought half of Purity after us.

NYSSA:
Turlough, look! Those boulders on the next hillside.

TURLOUGH:
That's them! The way in, I'm sure of it. But the last time we were there they tried to kill us.

DOCTOR:
I imagine Mertil and Jestan have something similar in mind. Sessa, can you walk?

SESHA:
I think so.

DOCTOR:
Then run!

(THEY ALL RUN)

SCENE 53: EXT: CHODOR FOREST. NIGHT.

MERTIL:

There. Jestan's picked out the strangers. Switch on our night-lighter. Hurry.

(FX: SWITCHES FLICKED, LOW HUM)

MERTIL (CONT):

We've got them pinned against the cliff-face. They're trapped!

SCENE 54: EXT: OUTSIDE TAKERS' TUNNEL. NIGHT

(DOCTOR, TURLOUGH, NYSSA AND SSHA STOP RUNNING, PANTING)

TURLOUGH:

Nice to know where the other half of Purity got to.

SSHA:

Mertil's so close.

DOCTOR:

Is this the place?

NYSSA:

That light's so blinding... but, I think... Yes. Here, between the two boulders. You can feel the force-field barrier.

TURLOUGH:

Hold up the Taker. It disabled the barrier before.

NYSSA:

Nothing.

TURLOUGH:

Give it here!

DOCTOR:

It's no good. Using its vocal circuits, fighting off the Shades – it's exhausted the last of its power.

MERTIL:

(FAR OFF) Jestan! Attack together!

SSHA:

They're moving in from both sides.

DOCTOR:

Nowhere left to run.

TURLOUGH:

Think of something, Doctor – they'll pull us to pieces!

(WE HEAR BOTH PARTIES CONVERGE – FOOTFALLS, THE CLANK OF NIGHT-LIGHTERS ETC, APPROACHING ON THE DOCTOR'S GROUP)

JESTAN:

It's safe to approach. The night-lighters dazzle them, they cannot see your faces.

MERTIL:

(CLOSER) The Strangers brought Sessa back from the dead with their powers. She is theirs now – theirs and the Takers'. They would have her rule you on their depraved behalf.

(FX: ANXIOUS CROWD NOISES)

SESHA:

(UNWELL) Mertil tried to kill me – like she killed my mother.

JESTAN:

Lies. The strangers have made her their puppet!

SESHA:

No...

NYSSA:

Doctor, her condition's getting worse.

DOCTOR:

Turlough, keep trying with the Taker. There might just be enough latent power still in there.

MERTIL:

You put Purity under the spell of sleep so you could fly back to the dirt and darkness with Sessa's soul. Now we must return her to her natural rest.

DOCTOR:

Oh, you make it sound almost poetical, Mertil. This is murder you're talking about. Killing. Slaughter in cold blood.
(LOUDER, ADDRESSING CROWDS) If she cares so little for her own stepdaughter, how much can she care for you?

(FX: SONIC BLUR OF TAKERS ARRIVING)

TURLOUGH:

Oh, no...

NYSSA:

More Takers!

SCENE 55: EXT: TAKERS' SEGREGATED COMMUNITY ZONE. NIGHT

TEGAN:

All right, Anulf, so it's more of a rest home than a prison. I still prefer to look after myself.

ANULF:

For those of Purity, I think it soon becomes a refuge. Can you imagine how it feels to have fought against so tireless an enemy as dirt and disease your whole life, then to find yourself safe in a place where such things no longer matter?

TEGAN:

OK, I get that. But why can't anyone ever go back to Purity and tell the others they're all right? Why the kidnap, the fear and the secrecy?

ANULF:

The Takers say it must be this way.

TEGAN:

And everyone just accepts that?

ANULF:

In time, they have to. This community is sealed in with the good air. There is no way back out. (LOWERS VOICE) Only the tunnel. My condition meant the Takers could not drug me or dissolve me into the air for fear of killing me.

TEGAN:

I heard you call out in the forest...

ANULF:

They had to carry me. They made a tunnel appear in the rock that stretched all the way to here.

TEGAN:

Then, if we could find the other end of that tunnel...

ANULF:

Impossible. It is shielded with an invisible wall so the Shades cannot follow them inside.

TEGAN:

You've completely given up, haven't you! A couple of days ago you were Purity's leader. Are you going to turn your back on your people? On Sessa? On the woman who killed your wife, who's trying to take your place?

ANULF:

My wife-? My wife fell in an accident.

TEGAN:

I'm sorry, Anulf. She was helped to fall by Mertil.

ANULF:

What?

TEGAN:

Mertil killed her.

ANULF:

No... (TURNS AND WALKS AWAY)

TEGAN:

I heard her brag about it! You can't just walk away from this, Anulf!

ANULF:

Precisely, I cannot. Mertil is many things but she did not kill my wife. My wife still lives - after a fashion. The Takers found her when she fell and brought her here. (PAUSE) Forgive me, I would prefer to be alone.

(FX: HE EXITS, AS A TAKER STOMPS UP TO TEGAN)

TEGAN:

(TO SELF) Handled that well, didn't I? (PAUSE, TO TAKER) What are you looking at?

TAKER:

Tegan Jovanka. You will accompany me to in-patient processing.

TEGAN:

If I know what's good for me?

TAKER:

Yes.

SCENE 56: EXT: OUTSIDE TAKERS' TUNNEL. NIGHT

(FX: BLUR OF ARRIVING TAKERS RESOLVES)

SESHA:

Takers, coming here?

DOCTOR:

Yes, of course! They've no choice, Sesha.

SESHA:

What do you mean?

NYSSA:

Doctor, the barrier's down!

DOCTOR:

Hold hands with Sesha. Get ready to jump through.

MERTIL:

For Sesha, death will be a mercy. People of Purity, we all will die if we do not kill Sesha and the strangers now!

JESTAN:

Kill them all!

DOCTOR:

Now!

(THEY RUN THROUGH THE BARRIER)

END OF PART THREE

PART FOUR

REPRISE:

NYSSA:
Doctor, the barrier's down!

DOCTOR:
Hold hands with Sesha. Get ready to jump through.

MERTIL:
For Sesha, death will be a mercy. People of Purity, we all will die if we do not kill Sesha and the strangers now!

JESTAN:
Kill them all!

DOCTOR:
Now!

(THEY RUN THROUGH THE BARRIER)

(CONTINUES INTO:)

SCENE 57: EXT: OUTSIDE TAKERS' TUNNEL. NIGHT

(DOCTOR STOPS HIS FRIENDS SHARPLY)

DOCTOR:
That's far enough. We can't let the barrier re-seal.

MERTIL:
Get them!

TURLOUGH:
If we stay here, Mertil will kill us!

DOCTOR:
So will the Takers if we don't time this right. Nyssa, take my hand.

TAKER:
Stand aside from the barrier. Stand aside.

DOCTOR:
No. The tunnel is open, Taker. Mertil is coming. You'll be too late to heal Sesha in secret or otherwise unless you take her now!

(FX: THE BLUR OF TAKER TRANSPORTING HAS ALREADY STARTED UP)

SESHA:
What's... happening?

DOCTOR:
Nyssa, Turlough, don't let go of her. (VOICE ECHOES AS
TRANSPORTED AWAY) It'll have to take us too!

(FX: RUSHING UP, JESTAN, MERTIL AND HER FOLLOWERS COME UP SHARP
AGAINST BARRIER. SHRIEKS AND SHOUTS)

MERTIL:
Curse them!

JESTAN:
The air has turned solid! We can't get through. Mertil, that's
real sorcery.

MERTIL:
Use the spark-wire, Jestan. We'll break their invisible wall.

(JESTAN TAKES OUT THE DEVICE)

JESTAN:
Stand back. I'll put it to the highest setting.

(FX: ZAPPPP. AND THEN THE ENERGY IS THROWN BACK — SAME SOUND
BUT MAGNIFIED, DISTORTED)

JESTAN:
(SCREAMS, DIES)

(FX: CROWD HORROR)

MERTIL:
(CROUCHES) Jestan!

ANTAN:
The air threw the sparks back at him. Is he dead?

MERTIL:
(WHISPERS) A new widow's fire sleeps, Jestan, till it is more
seemly.

ANTAN:
I said, is he [dead?]

MERTIL:
Yes, Antan, he is dead. (RISES) Lift him up. Up from the filthy
ground.

ANTAN:
(MUTTERS) We'll all be dead if we stay here.

MAN:

I'm going back.

WOMAN:

Me too.

MERTIL:

No! Listen to me.

MAN:

Jestan listened to you and it killed him.

ANTAN:

Mertil, something moved.

MERTIL:

(HOPEFUL) Jestan...?

ANTAN:

No, that half-Taker thing – look, it's twitching. Like it's... coming to life.

TAKER HUSK:

(MORE URGENT THAN BEFORE) Find. Heal. Take flesh. Make fresh.

SCENE 58: INT. TAKERS' CAVE (PROCESSING AREA). NIGHT

(FX: BLUR OF TAKER TRANSPORT NOISE. DOCTOR ETC MATERIALISE, SLIGHTLY BREATHLESS)

SESHA:

What was that...?

DOCTOR:

Low-level matter transporters. Always put my teeth on edge.

NYSSA:

We're back in the Takers' Control Area.

TURLOUGH:

And I think these two are the ones who tried to kill us before.

SESHA

(GROANS AND COLLAPSES)

NYSSA:

Sesha!

DOCTOR:

She's collapsed. Carbolic acid poisoning, I would think. Mertil's blade must have been slathered in the stuff.

TAKER #1:
The diagnosis is accurate.

TAKER #2:
We shall heal her.

NYSSA:
Why did you leave her for so long in pain?

DOCTOR:
Her condition had to reach critical before they could intervene, Nyssa. That's their rule.

TURLOUGH:
And why they monitor everyone in the settlement so closely.

NYSSA:
But why?

TAKER #2:
(TO TAKER) Bring Tegan Jovanka.

NYSSA:
Tegan?

(TEGAN IS BROUGHT IN)

TEGAN:
I can walk by myself, thank you very much – Doctor! Nyssa, Turlough!

DOCTOR:
Tegan! You're unharmed?

TEGAN:
They haven't touched me. Yet. What about Mertil and the Purity mob?

NYSSA:
They're safely shut outside. It's so good to see you're safe.

TURLOUGH:
I'm not sure any of us are safe.

TEGAN:
(NOTICING SSHA) Ssha! Will she be all right?

TAKER #2:
Carbolic acid is a fat-soluble depressant and must be removed from the nervous system before functional inactivity sets in.

TEGAN:

Well, do it! Sesha, it's Tegan. Your father's here, Sesha. And not just him...

TURLOUGH:

Her father. So you found him in the end then?

TAKER:

Tegan Jovanka, these humanoids are your fellow travellers? There are no more?

TEGAN:

That's right.

TAKER:

They have caused interference with our monitors and used subterfuge to enter this camp. They will be disposed of according to active combat regulation two-zero-one.

TEGAN:

No!

TURLOUGH:

You don't understand! We... we're the rescue party.

DOCTOR:

Yes! The rescue party you've spent a century waiting for.

(FX: POWER FLUCTUATION)

TAKER:

Continuing treatment.

NYSSA:

They need rescuing quickly. Their power's wearing down.

TEGAN:

Right, it told me that too.

TAKER:

Prove you are personnel from a genuine rescue mission.

DOCTOR:

Can you prove otherwise?

TAKER #2:

Before any action can be taken, confirmation of rescue status is needed from Earth Empire Command.

DOCTOR:

Only you can't get it, can you? You've no way of contacting them for help or guidance. (BEAT) We may be able to provide both – if you explain what happened...

SCENE 59: EXT: OUTSIDE TAKERS' TUNNEL. NIGHT

(FX: TAKER-HUSK IS WRITHING ON GROUND)

TAKER HUSK:

Find. Heal. Take flesh. Make fresh. [ETC]

MERTIL:

Stop that obscene monstrosity, Antan! It's only half a creature.

ANTAN:

(FX: THUDS WITH CLUB) I can't stop it. It's after the spark-wire.

MERTIL:

Everybody back!

(FX: LOW BUZZING HUM AS IT ABSORBS POWER FROM DEVICE.)

ANTAN:

Wha...? (ALMOST OVERBALANCES) Mertil! The barrier, it's gone!

MERTIL:

The moment that thing touched the spark-wire... as if it opened it for us.

(FX: QUIET, BUT BUILDING UNDER SPEECH: SHADES, MUTTERING TOGETHER)

ANTAN:

I don't understand.

MERTIL:

(QUIETLY) We don't need to understand, only to take advantage. (TO PEOPLE) See! Jestan's sacrifice was not in vain. No leader has ever brought you so close to our enemies - where they go, now we can go. Now we can destroy!

(FX: WE DETECT A NEW NOTE TO THE SHADES' GIBBERING - SINISTER, DERANGED LAUGHTER)

SCENE 60: INT. TAKERS' CAVE (PROCESSING AREA). NIGHT

DOCTOR:

Auto-medic, we need to know what happened on the day of the quarantine.

TAKER #2:

Historical testimony has no relevance to current situation.

DOCTOR:

Nonsense. Learning from the past is the only way to build a future. But you auto-medics had no past experience of containing an outbreak of Richter's Syndrome, did you?

TAKER #2:

All but two human medical practitioners perished in the crash. All communications were destroyed. We could not connect with Central Medical Register.

DOCTOR:

And so you concluded the simplest way forwards was to eliminate the sufferers.

TEGAN:

That's horrible.

TAKER #2:

One senior surgeon supported the decision. One staff-doctor did not. She encouraged other patients to prevent our actions. They brought weapons. They fired upon us and struck the damaged engines.

NYSSA:

What sort of engines?

(FX: POWER FLUCTUATION. TAKER'S VOICE SLURS FURTHER)

TAKER #2:

Subspace dilation drive.

DOCTOR:

So there's our outburst of energy – a percussive impact on a quantum flux generator. Layers of warp energy sent shattering outward through reality, transforming humans and medics alike.

TEGAN:

Into the Shades?

TAKER #2:

Into intra-dimensional contaminants.

NYSSA:

Into helpless chimera, left in terrible pain.

DOCTOR:

Gently, Nyssa. We haven't heard all its story.

TAKER #2:

The surgeon was eliminated in the conflagration. The staff-doctor became Purity's leader. Our presence, and that of the intra-dimensional contaminants, caused mental disturbances in the humans. Fear. Alarm. Paranoia.

TURLOUGH:

Can you blame them?

TAKER #2:

Staff-doctor banished us from the Bay. All mention of the auto-medics and the events of that day forbidden. Soon after, she too died of warp radiation.

DOCTOR:

But you couldn't just abandon your patients, could you? Just as you couldn't go on causing them such distress, or disobey direct instructions from a superior.

TEGAN:

So the only way they could continue to care for the people was in secret?

TAKER #2:

It was the only way. It took the ten of us many years to sterilise the area beyond the river, shut out the Contaminants, and build a hospital from salvaged parts.

NYSSA:

And all the time, the survivors held tight for a rescue that never came. But if they ever became ill, you spirited them away.

TAKER #2:

We could not allow them to see us. So we could cause them no distress.

TEGAN:

You stole their sick and injured without explanation, and didn't think it would cause them distress?

DOCTOR:

They're programmed for physical medicine, not psychiatry. They took the staff-doctor's words at face value.

NYSSA:

And for all this time the Shades have been ignored. They're desperate to be healed, to know peace again.

(FX: POWER FLUCTUATION)

TEGAN:

(MUTTERS) It's getting worse.

TAKER #2:

(SLURRED) Our purpose is to heal humans.

DOCTOR:

And so it's gone on, year after year. The Takers subservient to their programming, the survivors living out their rituals – neither side with any real understanding of what it means to live at all.

(FX CHITTERING AND LAUGHING THE SHADES COME IN)

TAKER #1:

Warning. Contamination breach.

TURLOUGH:

Shades!

SCENE 61: INT. TAKERS' TUNNEL. NIGHT

(FX: ECHOING FOOTSTEPS OF SETTLERS AND SWOOSHING OF SHADES, STILL GIBBERING AWAY)

MERTIL:

Inside the Takers' stronghold, Antan. Did you ever imagine...?

ANTAN:

Why did that half-there thing open the way?

MERTIL:

It sought to escape us.

ANTAN:

You don't think this could be a trap to take us all?

MERTIL:

We are too strong. Too pure. We have spent our lives preparing for this day. Thirty men and women stand with us, to be honoured always. And all who've fled will have their muck-stuffed hearts scrubbed to pulp upon our return.

ANTAN:

I never heard the Shades this way before.

MERTIL:

Even they sense the importance of this day. Do not falter now, Antan. Not now.

SCENE 62: INT. TAKERS' CAVE (PROCESSING AREA). NIGHT

(FX: SHADES WHOOSHING)

TAKER #1:

Warning. The humans have entered the tunnel.

TURLOUGH:

The Shades must have got in with them.

TAKER #2:

They are advancing on our settlement.

DOCTOR:

Good! Don't you see, you can re-integrate your worlds. Once the people of Purity see you mean them no harm, find that those who've been taken are treated well, they won't fight you.

TAKER #2:

We can only heal in secret. The humans are armed. There will be violence.

TEGAN:

How did Mertil even get in? Why didn't they set off any alarms?

NYSSA:

In theory, only Takers can open the barriers.

TURLOUGH:

Including that husk we've been carrying round with us.

DOCTOR:

Where did you leave it?

(FX: POWER FLUCTUATION)

TURLOUGH:

I... I must have left it behind at the mouth to the tunnel. Like this place, it had no power.

DOCTOR:

(SLOWLY) Perhaps it wanted us to think that.

NYSSA:

Medic, we came through a barrier at this end of the tunnel.

(FX: UNDER NEXT LINE, SHADE NOISE INCREASES THEN CUTS OFF)

TAKER #1:

Power failure... will leave barrier weak... (PAUSE – THEN SHADE)
Must find. Heal. We are many.

TURLOUGH:

Oh, no.

TEGAN:

What's happening?

NYSSA:

It's being animated by the Shades.

TEGAN:

They're inside it? Why?

(FX: SHADES LAUGHING AND BABBLING INCREASES)

DOCTOR:

Solid, plastic flesh, a mind fixed in steel and circuits. To know a stable form after so long - for a Shade, that's purity. (TURNS TO TAKER 2) Medic, you must talk with Mertil and her followers before it's too late -

TAKER #2:

Takers keep. Keep takers. Cleanse. Heal. (IT GRABS DOCTOR BY THROAT) Kill! (CHUCKLES)

DOCTOR:

(GASPS AS THROTTLED)

TURLOUGH:

Doctor! (HE TRIES TO FREE DOCTOR) Tegan, help me!

TAKER #1:

Peace. Cleanse. (CHUCKLES)

NYSSA:

-akk- (ALSO GRABBED)

TEGAN:

Nyssa!

SCENE 63: INT. TAKERS' TUNNEL. NIGHT

(MERTIL AND ANTAN RUNNING ALONG. WE HEAR THE HUM OF MACHINES AS THEY NEAR TAKER PROCESSING AREA)

MERTIL:

Hear the Takers' machines. We must be close to the heart of their operations, and still they offer no resistance.

ANTAN:

Wait! (STOP RUNNING) That shadow...

(FX: WE HEAR RAGGED TAKER FOOTSTEPS INSTEAD OF USUAL MEASURED ONES)

TAKER #3:

Sickness. Live. Let live. Give.

ANTAN:

A Taker who thinks it's a Shade?

MERTIL:

Then it is no more dangerous than a Shade. Together – we attack!

ANTAN:

Who's with me-?

TAKER #3:

Together. All apart.

(FX: IT HITS ANTAN, HE SLAMS INTO WALL)

ANTAN:

(CRIES OUT)

(FX: SCREAMS AND CRIES FROM CROWD, WHO RUN)

MERTIL:

Antan!

TAKER #3:

(LUMBERING TOWARDS MERTIL) All apart.

MERTIL:

No. No! Stay back! Stay – aaaargh!!! (SCREAM CHOKES OFF)

SCENE 64: INT. TAKERS' CAVE (PROCESSING AREA). NIGHT

(TURLOUGH STILL STRUGGLING TO FREE DOCTOR. TAKERS BABBLE SAME SPEECH AS BEFORE UNDER:)

TURLOUGH:

Doctor! Tegan, help me, his throat'll be crushed.

TEGAN:

I can't leave Nyssa. Can't break its grip.

TURLOUGH:

And when they're dead it'll be our turn!

(ANULF ENTERS)

ANULF:

What is this?

TEGAN:

Anulf! What does it look like? Help!

(ANULF WADES IN. GRUNTS AS BREAKS TAKER'S GRIP ON DOCTOR)

(FX: TAKER SMASHES INTO MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS)

DOCTOR:

(HOARSE) Thank you. Nyssa! Help Nyssa!

(EVERYONE STRUGGLES TO FREE HER)

(FX: POWER FLUCTUATION, VOICES SLUR WITH IT)

ANULF:

Leave that woman be! (HURLS TAKER TO FLOOR)

NYSSA:

Thank you.

DOCTOR:

Yes. Brother Anulf, is it? Hello. I've heard a lot about you. I'm the Doctor.

ANULF:

The ancient word of power!

DOCTOR:

Power, yes. And that's about all that has an effect on these possessed Takers.

ANULF:

Tegan, I saw you taken, and I followed you.

TEGAN:

I'm glad you did. And there's someone else I bet is glad about it, too.

SESHA:
(COMING ROUND) F-Father? Is that you-?

ANULF:
Sesha...!

TAKER #2:
Cleanse. Long. Die. Strong.

DOCTOR:
The happy reunion will have to wait, I'm afraid. The Shades are very much alive as well. Anulf, help Sesha. We've got to warn everyone here, they're being invaded!

SCENE 65: INT. TAKERS' TUNNEL. NIGHT

MERTIL:
(CHOKING) Let... go... of -

(FX: POWER FLUCTUATION)

MERTIL:
(SHE BREAKS FREE.) ... me!!!

(FX: TAKER CRASHES INTO WALL)

(BEAT)

MERTIL:
Antan. Wake up. Get up off the ground.

ANTAN:
Mertil? Sir John take me, what are these creatures? We should never have come here.

MERTIL:
My fighters have all run away.

ANTAN:
Then there is no shame in following.

MERTIL:
No shame? I have killed for this chance to prove my way is right. I will not waste it. I will claim something from this day.

TAKER #3:
Claim. Cleanse. Right. Take. Kill.

MERTIL:
It blocks our way in any case. The only way to run is deeper inside.

SCENE 66: EXT. TAKERS' SEGREGATED COMMUNITY ZONE. NIGHT

(FX: DISTANT SCREAMS. THE FAMILIAR SYNTHETIC BABBLE OF POSSESSED TAKERS – REUSE EXISTING DIALOGUE)

DOCTOR:
The slaughter has started.

TEGAN:
We've got to help those people.

TURLOUGH:
How? There's ten of those things, unmovable, pretty much indestructible – and with a very tight grip.

NYSSA:
Why are the Shades doing this? I thought they wanted peace?

DOCTOR:
A hundred years in formless agony – enough to drive anyone insane. The sterility wall can't have helped, charging the local atmosphere with disruptive particles.

NYSSA:
I could feel them in my mind outside the TARDIS. Such a longing, a yearning.

DOCTOR:
I felt them too, in the Ghost Place. They helped me get away from Jestan.

ANULF:
The Shades were always out in numbers when the Takers walked.

NYSSA:
You thought they were drawn to the Takers. But perhaps they were hunting them.

DOCTOR:
And it's only now the Takers have been weakened by the power failures that the Shades have been able to take control of them.

TURLOUGH:
Ready to take their revenge on the humans who refused to listen to them.

TEGAN:
Doctor, there are so many people here. Families. Children.

TURLOUGH:
(GHOULISH) And once the Shades work out how to use the Takers' matter transporters...

DOCTOR:

Yes, thank you, Turlough. The Shades don't seem to have mastered that particular function of their borrowed bodies yet. Evacuation, I think, is the only option.

ANULF:

But we have held tight all our lives.

SESHA:

And it's been slowly killing us, Father. We must go.

ANULF:

And what of those who cannot leave? Those in 'intensive care' here... like your mother.

SESHA:

(AFFECTED) My mother?

ANULF:

The Takers' machines keep her heart beating. But she lives.

SCENE 67: EXT. ANTECHAMBER TO TAKERS' SEGREGATED ZONE. NIGHT

(SAME BACKGROUND OF TERROR AND SHADE-BABBLE)

(FX: SCOOSH OF SOAP, MERTIL'S AT IT AGAIN. ANTAN'S PANTING BESIDE HER.)

ANTAN:

Mertil – across the courtyard. Brother Anulf.

MERTIL:

Alive. With the strangers. And with Sessa. Oh, Anulf, what have they done to you? (SHE SCRUBS) He looks just the same. But she will have poisoned his mind against me. I must speak with him.

ANTAN:

Please, Mertil, not here, not now. Sessa and the strangers will try to kill us for what we've done.

MERTIL:

Listen to the screams. Who's screaming? Are all those taken held in such agony?

ANTAN:

Anulf is not. The spike-haired stranger is not.

MERTIL:

Everything is tricks here, Antan. Don't be deceived. (SCRUBBING HARDER, TRYING NOT TO CRY NOW) Don't be deceived. Don't. Don't.

SCENE 68: EXT. TAKERS' SEGREGATED COMMUNITY ZONE. NIGHT

SESHA:

Father, if my mother is alive, I must see her.

ANULF:

Sesha, I know how you must feel but this is not the time.

SESHA:

There may not be any other!

(FX: POWER FLUCTUATION. DISTANT BABBLING DIES)

TEGAN:

Doctor, the power drains – they seem to be coming faster.

NYSSA:

It's affecting the Takers as well as their equipment. The power must be broadcast from a central source.

TURLOUGH:

If we wait long enough, might the Takers wear down altogether?

DOCTOR:

That power source has lasted for a hundred years – it could take another fifty to exhaust itself. Unless of course, we give it a helping hand.

NYSSA:

You mean, discharge the energy somehow?

DOCTOR:

Cut the supply. The simplest way to stop them in their tracks.

TEGAN:

But it'll stop everything else too. The lights, the sterility wall...

TURLOUGH:

(REALISES) Intensive care.

SESHA:

You can't.

(BABBLE RE-STARTS. SOBBING ETC FROM DISTANCE)

SESHA (CONT):

You just can't.

ANULF:

Being leader, Sesha, means making decisions for everyone, not just for yourself.

DOCTOR:

There might be a way to maintain power to the essential systems while taking it from the Shade-Takers.

NYSSA:

Doctor, look!

TAKER:

Take flesh. Make fresh. Only us. Take pill. Take kill.

TURLOUGH:

They're coming.

DOCTOR:

Anulf, do you know the way to the power supply?

ANULF:

No.

DOCTOR:

Then we'll start looking near the intensive care ward – any emergency power would be routed there as a priority.
Come on!

(FX: THEY RUN. CONTINUES INTO:)

SCENE 69: INT. CORRIDOR IN TAKERS' COMMUNITY ZONE. NIGHT

('RUNNING' MUSIC AND FOOTSTEPS TO CONVEY OUR HEROES RUNNING)

ANULF:

The Intensive Care ward is this way.

SESHA:

If those things have harmed my mother, I'll hack them to pieces!

DOCTOR:

Wait! Look, threaded through the venting hatch.

TEGAN:

Cables.

NYSSA:

Heavy-duty cables, by the looks of it.

TURLOUGH:

But the Takers operate on broadcast power, not a wired system.

DOCTOR:

Which means the life-support machines must run on a smaller, isolated circuit and won't be affected. Tegan, Nyssa, go with Anulf and Sessa. Anyone in that will be entirely helpless, try to make it as secure as you can.

TEGAN:

Let's hope visiting hours are over.

(FX: A SINGLE CONVENTIONAL SHADE CHITTER QUIETLY BELOW NEXT LINE)

DOCTOR:

Turlough, with me. We've got a power supply to sabotage.

(FX: CHITTER GETS LOUDER IN SPEAKERS AND THEN WHIZZES AWAY)

SCENE 70: INT. TAKERS' COMMUNITY ZONE. NIGHT

(A MAN SCREAMS AND DIES AS THREE TAKERS CHANT TOGETHER:)

TAKERS:

Kill. Take. Remember. Hate. Kill.

(FX: CHITTERING SHADE FROM LAST SCENE WHIZZES ABOUT SPEAKERS AND SETTLES. VOICES SHUT UP. THEN:)

TAKERS:

Intensive. Care. There. Lair.

(THEY WALK/SHUFFLE AWAY)

SCENE 71: INT. INTENSIVE CARE. NIGHT

(FX: QUIET BEEPS OF MEDICAL MONITORS, THROUGH DOOR)

ANULF:
She is through here.

TEGAN:
Are you all right, Sessa?

SESHA:
(DISTANT) Yes.

(FX: DOORS OPEN. THEY WALK THROUGH.)

NYSSA:
Not too crowded in here, anyway. That's something.

TEGAN:
Come on, we'd better see what we can find for a barricade.
Those spare beds for a start.

(FX: SOME CLANKING AND NOISE TO SUGGEST INDUSTRIOUS COMPANIONS)

ANULF:
Sessa, I should warn you your mother looks different since the
accident...

(FX: HER FOOTSTEPS AS SHE GOES TO THE BED)

SESHA:
(DELIGHTED, MOVED) Mother... your hair is so long. And your face...
it's grown as soft as the strangers'.

(MERTIL WALKS IN. SHE'S NOT QUITE ALL THERE)

MERTIL:
The thicker the skin, the stronger the faith.

ANULF:
Mertil!

SCENE 72: INT. POWER ROOM. NIGHT

(FX: ATMOSPHERE OF POWER. DOCTOR'S VOICE MUFFLED BY DOOR)

DOCTOR:

The conduits lead here. If I can trip the switch...

(FX: GRATING HUM AS HEAVY DOORS OPEN. DOCTOR and TURLOUGH now UNMUFFLED)

DOCTOR:

Eureka.

TURLOUGH:

For your next trick you'll discharge a broadcast power supply without blowing us all to smithereens.

DOCTOR:

Hopefully, Turlough, hopefully. Help me with this hatch cover. Should show us what we're up against. (THEY STRAIN AT IT)

TURLOUGH:

Doctor... you mean what else we're up against.

DOCTOR:

What? Oh... Antan, isn't it?

(ANTAN HAS TURNED UP)

ANTAN:

I've been sent here to kill you.

SCENE 73: INT. INTENSIVE CARE. NIGHT

(AS BEFORE, MERTIL IN DOORWAY)

TEGAN:

Mertil? What are you doing here?

SESHA:

Don't take a step nearer to my mother. Keep away!

MERTIL:

There are Takers coming here, Anulf. We must leave. Come with me, my love.

ANULF:

I am not yours in any way.

MERTIL:

If you stay you will die. Purity needs you.

ANULF:

My family needs me more. To help Purity is beyond me now. I help the strangers - they fight, they understand where I do not.

MERTIL:

I am your family.

SESHA:

You never came close.

NYSSA:

Come inside, Mertil, or leave.

TEGAN:

We've got to get this barricade up or the people here will be defenceless.

(FX: POWER FLUCTUATION)

ANULF:

Yes. (HE PICKS SOMETHING UP) We must help them.

MERTIL:

Help me, husband. As a child I knew truth like spotless white. Now I see it stained red and dark. I have pulled the nails from my fingers so no mud may get behind them, blood hardens the cracks I've scrubbed into my face, but everywhere I look I still see only dirt and sickness.

SESHA:

Because the sickness is in you. It's all you've ever looked for.

TEGAN:

Now come in if you're going to or get out.

(DOWN THE CORRIDOR, TAKERS)

TAKER:

Come. Run. Dumb. Close. Clean. Kill.

TEGAN:

I mean it. These doors are closing.

MERTIL:

Perhaps they are. I've spent my life afraid of the dark. But if any of you live to tell stories of this day, tell that I never ran from it.

(SHE LEAVES, CLOSES THE DOOR)

NYSSA:

Mertil!

SCENE 74: INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE INTENSIVE CARE. NIGHT

TAKERS:

(APPROACHING DOWN CORRIDOR) Blood. Bad. Spoil. Spill. Kill.

MERTIL:

Let me pass! I am stronger than you. My purity shines.

TAKERS:

(STILL ADVANCING) Spoil. Spill. Kill.

MERTIL

Let me pass! I insist you let me pass!

TAKERS:

Blood. Bad. Spoil. Kill-!!!

MERTIL:

(EXIT MERTIL. HER SCREAM CARRIES INTO:)

SCENE 75: INT. POWER ROOM. NIGHT

(FX: MERTIL'S SCREAM FROM OFF)

ANTAN:

(DISTRACTED) Mertil? – (PUNCHED BY TURLOUGH) Ooof!

(FX: KNIFE CLATTERS TO FLOOR)

TURLOUGH:

(PICKING UP KNIFE) I'll take that, thank you!

DOCTOR:

Thank you, Turlough.

TURLOUGH:

Yes, well, the prospect of imminent death tends to dissipate one's natural cowardice.

ANTAN:

I... That was...

DOCTOR:

... Mertil, I think. A pity. The knife, please, Turlough.
(EFFORT) It should help us prise off the cover.

ANTAN:

But – Mertil!

TURLOUGH:

Don't just lie there, man, help us!

(ALL THREE STRUGGLE TO OPEN COVER)

SCENE 76: INT. INTENSIVE CARE. NIGHT

(FX: HEAVY BANGING ON THE DOORS – THE TAKERS)

TAKERS:

Scare. Where? There. Clean. Kill. Spill. Blood. Good.

TEGAN:

The door won't hold them!

NYSSA:

They're getting in!

(FX: CRASH: TAKERS PILE THROUGH)

TAKERS:

Clean. Kill. Spill. Kill. Kill!

ANULF:

This was our refuge. Our only refuge! I won't let you destroy [it-!]

(HE GASPS AS TAKER GRABS HIM)

TAKERS:

Blood. Good.

SESHA:

Father! Let go of my father!

ANULF:

(THROTTLED) Don't let them destroy us. Sesha... (DIES)

(FX: BODY THROWN ASIDE)

SESHA:

No-!!!!

SCENE 77: INT. POWER ROOM. NIGHT

(FX: CLATTER OF HEAVY HATCH)

DOCTOR:

There. Now, then. These must be the broadcast power cells... ancillary system wired in here... Oh.

ANTAN:

What are you going to do?

DOCTOR:

Antan, isn't it? How are you at power-flux computations?

ANTAN:

Huh?

DOCTOR:

Ah. In which case: how are you at guarding doors?

(ANTAN GOES TO DOORWAY)

TURLOUGH:

Power-flux computations are hardly my strong suit either, Doctor.

DOCTOR:

It's no good in any case. Look. The router couplings are deadlocked. There's no way of dissipating the broadcast power charge.

TURLOUGH:

Could you divert the charge into the ancillary system?

DOCTOR:

Too much power. It would short out in seconds.

(FX: SCUFFING FOOTSTEPS APPROACH)

TAKERS:

(APPROACHING DOWN CORRIDOR) Coming. Kill. Coming. Kill.

ANTAN:

Doctor, the Takers are coming!

TURLOUGH:

We've got to get out of here.

ANTAN:

We can't.

DOCTOR:

(TO SELF) No good. Won't work. Come on, come on. (TO ANTAN) Antan, close the door.

(FX: DOOR CLOSES)

TURLOUGH:

The Takers will only open it again! Like they did the barriers. Their proximity activates their technology.

DOCTOR:

What? Of course...!

(FX: DOOR OPENS)

TAKERS:

Coming. Kill. Play. Slay. [ETC]

TURLOUGH:

See-?

ANTAN:

(TO TAKERS) Stay back!

DOCTOR:

On the contrary! Do come in and inspect my handiwork. (FX: TAKERS SCUFFLE IN) Proximity, you said, Turlough. Let's see how close they need to be.

TURLOUGH:

What, to kill us-?!?

(FX: HUM, CLICK)

DOCTOR:

There goes the deadlock!

TAKERS:

Deadlock. Dead. Lock. Shock. [ETC]

TURLOUGH:

Wonderful. And?

DOCTOR:

Your blade, Antan. Pass it to me. (FX: PASSING KNIFE; DOCTOR RUMMAGING IN CIRCUITRY) And with the help of one... not so subtle... knife...

(FX: SPARKS)

DOCTOR:

That's it!

TAKERS:

Knife. Life. Slice. Slice. Sliiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiice -

(FX: BABBLING SPEEDS UP, BECOMING A SHRIEK)

SCENE 78: INT. INTENSIVE CARE. NIGHT

TAKERS:

(MARAUDING) Clean. Kill. Spill. Kill. Kill!

SESHA:

Father! Father-!!!

TEGAN:

Sesha, get back! You can't help him now.

SESHA:

Oh no, no!

NYSSA:

It's no good. The Doctor's failed.

TEGAN:

He doesn't fail! Come on! Where there's life, there's hope!

TAKERS:

(ADVANCING) Hope. Hope. Hope. Hooooooooooooooooope –

(FX: TAKERS' VOICES BECOME A SHRIEK, THEN RUN DOWN INTO SILENCE)

(BEAT)

TEGAN:

What did I tell you?

NYSSA:

The Takers... they've stopped moving. The power's dead.

TEGAN:

Isn't it just!

SESHA:

(ALARM) Life support! There's no life support-!

(FX: QUIETER HUM OF POWER STARTS)

TEGAN:

(RELIEVED) There is now.

SCENE 79: INT. POWER ROOM. NIGHT

ANTAN:

The Takers have... melted?

TURLOUGH:

(TO DOCTOR) Tell us, then. What did you do?

DOCTOR:

Well, it was something of a joint effort really. The Taker's proximity to the systems triggered the settings menu, and I used your scalpel to sever the couplings and isolate the wired circuit.

TURLOUGH:

So all that broadcast power discharged directly into the Taker?

DOCTOR:

And since they share a neural network, from him it flowed into all the others.

ANTAN:

What about the Shades?

DOCTOR:

They would've had time to leave the melting bodies. They chose not to. They'll finally know peace. (BEAT) Perhaps, so too will Purity.

(FX: FADE)

SCENE 80: EXT. RIVERSIDE. DAY

(FX: FADE UP. FLOWING WATER. DOCTOR & COMPANIONS, PLUS SSHA, WALKING UP)

TEGAN:

(WALKING) Couldn't ask for a neater bit of symbolism.

DOCTOR:

(WALKING) Symbolism, Tegan?

TEGAN:

(WALKING) Oh, you know. A new dawn?

DOCTOR:

(STOPPING) Ah. Yes. Is that the time already?

NYSSA:

A new dawn for Purity. New Purity.

TURLOUGH:

It's 'Chodor', actually.

SESHA:

Purity's better.

DOCTOR:

I agree. Even without the sterility barrier, this will be a good clean base from which to govern.

SESHA:

I'm not sure that's what I want. To govern.

TEGAN:

But —

SESHA:

Oh, I mean to make my voice heard. But from this day on, life's not about holding tight... but letting go.

DOCTOR:

A world free of ghosts. In all ways.

TEGAN:

Wish my world was free of headaches.

TURLOUGH:

Any particular headache-?

NYSSA:

No bickering, you two.

DOCTOR:

No, it's no way to greet a new dawn. Goodbye Sessa, and good luck.

SESHA:

Goodbye. Thank you for our rescue. All of you.

(MUSIC: UP AS THEY WALK AWAY)

SCENE 81: EXT. FOREST. DAY

(FX: FADE UP. TIME-TRAVELLERS WALKING THROUGH FOREST.)

NYSSA:

Here we are. The TARDIS.

TURLOUGH

At last!

(FX: TARDIS KEY IN LOCK AND DOOR OPENS)

DOCTOR

In you go, everyone.

TURLOUGH:

Gladly. (HE GOES INSIDE)

DOCTOR:

Coming, Tegan?

TEGAN:

Just a second. I could use a bit more fresh air. I really do feel strange.

NYSSA:

Headaches, you said.

DOCTOR:

Yes. What sort of headaches?

TEGAN:

Just headaches. (BEAT) What are you looking at me like that for?

DOCTOR:

You have been sleeping well, I take it?

TEGAN:

Yes! Well, no. But it's nothing.

NYSSA:

Tegan...

TEGAN:

Look. Back there, the Takers said they wouldn't treat me because I wasn't part of Purity – but that changes in my medical condition might mean they'd reassess me. (BEAT) What did they mean, my condition?

DOCTOR:

I... I'm not sure. Come on. In the TARDIS, we can run some tests.

TEGAN:

(COLDER, A BIT MORE MOCKING, MORE 'MARA') Tests where you hypnotise me? Where you stop me dreaming? Where you check my arms to see if the mark is there?

NYSSA:

Tegan. We don't know if that's what this [is-]

TEGAN:

(SHARP) We know exactly what this is!

NYSSA:

(SCARED) Tegan?

DOCTOR:

Nyssa, help me get her into the TARDIS.

TEGAN:

Time to go. Too green for you here. You told me I was rid of it... But it's still there. Inside. Its coils winding ever tighter.

(FX: MARA NOISE/MUSIC)

DOCTOR:

Tegan, listen to me -

TEGAN:

I live, Doctor. (MARA VOICE) The Mara lives! (MARA LAUGH INTO...)

(MUSIC: END THEME)

CONTINUES IN 'THE CRADLE OF THE SNAKE'